

# The God of This Age

by Brian Brodersen

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*Satan is the God of this age, controlling the course of this world and influencing people through various systems, and it's essential to understand his role in order to defeat his influence and live a victorious Christian life.*

**Duration:** 52:54

**Scripture:** Job 1:6-11, Job 1:13-19, Mark 4:36-39, Ephesians 6:10-13

**Topics:** "Satanic Influence", "Spiritual Warfare"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses two instances of natural disasters in the Bible that were influenced by Satan. The first example is from the book of Job, where a great wind destroys a house and kills Job's children. The preacher suggests that Satan manipulated nature to bring about this tragedy. The second example is from the New Testament, where Jesus and his disciples are caught in a storm on the sea of Galilee. Jesus rebukes the wind and calms the storm, demonstrating his power over nature. The sermon emphasizes the presence and influence of Satan in the world and encourages Christians to put on the armor of God to withstand his attacks.

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## Transcript

Ephesians 6, once again this evening we are continuing our series on the subject of spiritual warfare and so let me read to you again Ephesians 6 verses 10 through 13. We'll sort of look at those verses again tonight. Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand.

In our previous study we learned that we as Christians are in a spiritual battle. We also learned a bit about our adversary the devil. We saw that he is exceedingly powerful, ultra intelligent, thoroughly wicked, and forever the enemy of God and man.

We also saw that the devil and his forces are presently ruling this world. In our study this evening I'd like to bring to your attention some of the devil's activity in the world. There are many things that the devil is behind that we might not realize and I think it's important that we get some insight into what his activity is in the world and in doing so hopefully we can get a better perspective on why the world is the way it is.

We'll get a biblical perspective on why the world is the way it is. So we want to look this evening at the devil's work in the world in three different areas. We want to look at the devil's work in the realm of nature.

We want to look at the devil's work in society and then finally we want to look at the devil's work in regard to religion. So the devil's work in the realm of nature. Did you know that Satan has a degree of power within the realm of nature? We don't usually think of that as being the case but we have much biblical evidence for that actually being the case.

Many of the things that we commonly refer to as natural disasters are in reality many times the work of the devil. Now notice that I said many times not all the time. Not every natural disaster that occurs is a work of the devil but I think that as we consider what the scripture say and as we consider the very character of Satan I think we could really make the statement that he's probably much more involved in those kinds of things than we often realize.

Now of course some disasters in history have been the direct result of the activity of God. God has judged the world in the past and he's used natural disaster as his instrument of judgment. The flood of course is a great example of that.

The raining of fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah would be another example of that or even the plagues that occurred in Egypt as God was liberating the nation of Israel from their bondage in Egypt. Those plagues with the exception of the tenth plague which was the judgment upon the firstborn all of them were manifestations of things that were going wrong in the natural realm. So there are times when God is the one who is directly involved in the natural disasters and then I think some disasters are truly natural.

There is no spiritual element involved in it but they're truly natural and they are the result of the fact that we live in a fallen world. We live in a world that as Paul the Apostle described it is in bondage to decay. The scientists use the term entropy, the law of entropy.

Everything is tending toward decay. Everything is falling apart basically and because we live in a world that's falling apart sometimes as the world is falling apart that ends up bringing disastrous circumstances for people. But then there is the possibility that Satan is occasionally and perhaps more than we have ever thought behind some of these things that are commonly referred to as natural disasters.

Let me give you a couple of examples from the scripture where we see Satan active behind the scenes manipulating the realm of nature and causing disaster in people's lives as a result of it. Let's turn to the book of Job to the first chapter. Job chapter 1 verse 6 says, Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan also came among them.

And the Lord said to Satan, From where do you come? So Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro on the earth and from walking back and forth on it. Then the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered my servant Job that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? So Satan answered the Lord and said, Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not made a hedge around him, around his household and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands and his possessions have increased in the land. But now stretch out your hand and touch all that he has and he will surely curse you to your face.

And the Lord said to Satan, Behold all that he has is in your power, only do not lay a hand on his person. So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. Now listen to this.

Now there was a day when the sons and daughters of Job were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house. And a messenger came to Job and said, The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them when the Sabaeans raided them and took them away. Indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword and I alone have escaped to tell you.

While he was still speaking another also came and said, The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them and I alone have escaped to tell you. While he was still speaking another also came and said, The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away. Yes and killed the servants with the edge of the sword and I alone have escaped to tell it.

And while he was still speaking another also came and said, Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house and it fell on the young people and they are dead and I alone have escaped to tell you. Here we see an example of natural disaster but it's very clear that Satan was behind the scenes manipulating nature in some way to bring about these disastrous circumstances that occurred in the life of Job. Now over in the New Testament in the fourth chapter of Mark's gospel, turn over there with me, in verse 36 of chapter 4 Jesus and his disciples are crossing the Sea of Galilee.

Verse 36 says, Now when they had left the multitude they took him along in the boat as he was and other little boats were also with him and a great windstorm arose and the waves beat into the boat so that it was already filling but he was in the stern asleep on a pillow and they awoke him and said to him, Teacher do you not care that we are perishing? Then he arose and here's the key word and rebuked the wind and said to the sea peace be still and the wind ceased and there was a great calm. Now this word rebuked here is the exact same word that's used whenever Jesus would rebuke the demons and it's highly likely that this storm that suddenly arose on the lake, a storm that was so powerful that these seasoned fishermen, these men who had grown up on this lake, that they were afraid for their lives, it's highly probable that once again here we have Satan behind the scenes manipulating the natural forces and bringing about this great windstorm attempting to destroy Jesus. He attempted to destroy him on many occasions and I think this was one of them and so Jesus rebukes the wind and because he uses that same terminology that he used in the context of delivering people from demon oppression I think that he was speaking to Satan who was operating here behind the scenes.

Now as we look at Job's experience and the experience of our Lord and the disciples here, I think that we can build a case that there are times when storms, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, these kinds of things that we commonly refer to as natural disasters, there are times when it's actually Satan behind the scenes. You know sometimes these kinds of things are referred to as acts of God. Have you ever heard that term? The insurance companies will refer to earthquakes and things like that as acts of God.

That's their way of not paying the bill when your house you know is wrecked in an earthquake. They say well you know God did that we can't really do anything to help you there. But they actually refer to it as an act of God.

And isn't it interesting that back in the account we read there in Job when the fire came down and consumed Job's possessions and his servants, how did the servant communicate it? The fire of God fell

from heaven. And many many times when natural disaster of whatever sort does occur, we find that Satan takes advantage of these kinds of things and and what do we see so often? We see people are blaming God for these kinds of things. That's why I think the devil is behind it to a large degree.

Because he wants God to get the blame for these kinds of things. So people will not come to God and trust in him and so forth. Two things that often occur when natural disaster strikes are the destruction of lives and the blasphemy of God.

It's interesting that in Revelation chapter 9 verse 11 of all verses and chapters, Revelation 9-11, Satan is referred to there as Apollyon in the Greek which is destroyer. And that of course is usually what happens when natural disaster strikes. People are destroyed.

Lives are destroyed. And because millions of people have been destroyed through natural disaster, I think that many of these things are satanically inspired. Because of the blasphemy that comes.

Revelation 13-1 tells us really basically that blasphemy originates with the devil himself. And I don't know if you can think back to times when you, you know, maybe it was after one of the big hurricanes hit the southeastern part of the country or when you know the earthquakes have happened in various places and you know the news people are there and they're interviewing victims, they're interviewing family members. And so many times right there on camera people will say things like, well why did God allow this? And of course whenever you're in a situation where you're ministering to people where these kinds of things have happened, that's the first thing they say.

Why did God allow this? And if this is the kind of God there is, get away. I don't want to hear anything from you, you know. And we had that experience a little bit when we were in New York City after the terrorist attack.

And because natural disasters lead to the destruction of lives and the blasphemy of God so often, because of those things I really do believe that Satan is more involved in these things than we would generally think. So I think it's important that we know that so that when these kinds of things do occur and we have opportunities to speak to people and try to help them, try to comfort them, and try to, you know, bring them to trust in the Lord, we need to know this stuff so we can remove that stumbling block that might be there as a result of the disaster that has affected their lives. We have to be able to say, hey God is not responsible for this.

God did not do this. But this is the work of the devil. This is what the devil does.

And so we see that the devil is working in the realm of nature. The devil is working in society. Satan is working among men.

He works through political systems, educational processes, the news and entertainment industries. It's important to understand this because once again I think as Christians we tend to view a lot of what goes on around us as merely politically or socially related. But yet that's a big mistake.

There's something else going on. Remember in our previous study we talked about the principalities and the powers. We talked about the reality of spiritual forces controlling things from behind the scenes.

And I'll tell you I don't know you know what your experience was back in January of 2000 around the whole election fiasco. But I personally sensed that there was a major spiritual battle going on at the time.

Now I believe that George W. Bush was the man that got appointed to be the president of this nation.

And I think the last couple years have kind of confirmed that. I remember you know shortly after the whole terrorist thing came about I remember reading articles where people who were supporting Al Gore were actually thankful at the time that he didn't win the presidency. Because they doubted his leadership ability under the kinds of circumstances that we were facing as a nation.

But I personally sensed that at that time there was there was a battle that was taking place. A spiritual battle. And I think that's what we would sense as Christians because that's what's going on.

That's what we see as we look at the scripture. And it's so important that we get a biblical perspective on what's really happening in the world. Because we can easily just you know get caught up in the way everybody else thinks.

And it's just you know this party versus that party. And it's these issues over against those issues. And that's what it's all about ultimately.

No that's not what it's all about ultimately. It's all about the principalities and powers behind the scenes who are in control. And they've got their people that they want to see in those positions.

Because those people are going to carry out their desires. And the last thing they want to see is a man who trusts God, believes in God, prays to God, encourages other people to do that in a position of great authority like the position of the President of the United States. So we have got to realize.

Remember according to Ephesians 2.2 Satan is controlling the course of this age. Behind the systems of the world whether political, social, philosophical, educational, religious, business or otherwise. This great evil mind is at work.

Satan is working among men. Satan said to Jesus on one occasion. As he was tempting him.

He of course was tempting Jesus to follow him. And perhaps you remember he finally it says that he took him up onto a high mountain and he showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said this to him.

He said bow down and worship me and I will give you these kingdoms. For they are mine and I give them to whomsoever I wish. Jesus Christ did not dispute that claim of Satan.

He of course rebuked him. Get behind me Satan you so worship and serve the Lord God only. But he didn't say which he could have said if that was anything less than a fact.

Jesus could have said Satan these kingdoms do not belong to you. And you can't give them to anybody you wish. But Jesus didn't dispute that.

Why? Because that is reality. That's what the Bible teaches. Jesus even himself referred to Satan in John chapter 16 as the God of this age.

Paul refers to Satan as the God of this age in 2nd Corinthians chapter 4. And so we've got to remember who's in control. Now that's not to say that God has lost control. God is ultimately in control.

In other words God is still sovereign. And even though Satan has been allowed an element of authority and he exercises that authority over man. Yet he has not been able to do that apart from God's sovereign allowance of such a thing.

Jesus said concerning Satan that he is a murderer. From the beginning he is a murderer. And so as we look around us and as we see the murderous activity going on in our world today.

As we go back over the long history of humanity and we see the murderous activity that's occurred throughout the long history of man over and over again in every generation. We see in that as well. We see the activity of the devil.

And as we look at the current situation. As we look at everything from radical Islam to communism to racism to drug trafficking to homicide bombers to teenage suicide. In all of these areas Satan's influence is seen.

Now of course people are involved in these things. But they're people who are under the control of the devil. Not to alleviate them of their own responsibility.

They are completely responsible and they will suffer the consequences of their rebellion to God and their submission to Satan. But we have to understand that he's the one behind the scenes. That's why Paul says we wrestle not against flesh and blood.

That's why we have to remember that if we're going to obtain a complete victory ever. It's got to be a victory that occurs in the spiritual realm as well as the physical realm. We've got to defeat those forces that are behind the scenes manipulating things.

And we can only do that through those spiritual weapons that we discussed last time. Prayer and the word of God and worship and those things. One of the most revealing events in history as to the personality purpose and power of the devil was seen in Adolf Hitler and the events that surrounded his attempt to rule the world.

But if you want to get a real up close and personal of what the devil is like. Just study the history of Adolf Hitler in the Third Reich. I mean that's all of the brutality all of the murderous rage.

Oh it's just it's so clearly seen there. And especially in his animosity toward the Jewish people. You know sometimes people want to downplay the wickedness of the devil.

They want to sort of approach it in a lighter fashion and all but you can't do that. And his personality, his purpose, his power is most clearly seen in some of these dictators that have come and gone in world history. The communists have also left us an example of the true nature of Satan.

If you get into studying the history of the activity of the communists in the very various parts of the world in Eastern Europe and what Lenin and Stalin did to their own countrymen in Russia or what happened in the revolution in China or in Cambodia and places like that. It's just unbelievable. But the interesting thing is not only the the murderous aspect of it but the radical Antichrist element to it all as well.

Very much opposed to Christ. As a matter of fact Richard Wombrant, the Romanian pastor who suffered much persecution under the communists in Romania, he wrote a book entitled Marx and Satan. And he does research back into the early life of Karl Marx and shows that there was a connection between Marx

and Satanism.

And his whole philosophy that came forth as communism or socialism has that satanic element to it and it's crystal clear again by the murderous element and by the Antichrist element in it. And now we're seeing the radical Muslims and they are providing new insights into the vicious character of Satan. And could there be any question about the origin of this? When their main hostility is toward Jews and Christians.

The ambition of Islam is to rule the whole world. But presently their ambition is to destroy Israel and the Christians who they see as supporting Israel. So in all of that I mean I think that you have to be blind to miss the spiritual element in that.

I don't know if you heard about it on the news or not, but this past week the Southern Baptist Convention met and one of the leaders, formerly the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Vines from Jacksonville, Florida. He was addressing the Southern Baptist Convention and he was talking about Islam. He was quoting directly from the Quran, from the Hadith, from the Islamic sources and in doing so he was building a case for Muhammad not being a prophet of God but actually being a deluded, possibly demon-possessed individual.

Quoting from the Muslim sources, Muhammad thought he was demon-possessed. It was his wife who told him, no you're not, it's God who's speaking to you. And he went on to, you know, just sort of expose Islam but using all Islamic sources.

And you know what an outrage and an uproar coming not only from the Islamic community but coming from the news media. And you know it's so ironic since September 11th we've seen a demonstration of what radical Islam is all about but we've got people in our country who are trying to dismiss that as sort of an extreme, fringe type of a thing. These people have not read history.

This is what's happened historically from the time Muhammad gained power. And but you know as you look at this whole thing and you know the irony to me is that you can, you know, in the papers or you know in your news broadcast or whatever, you can speak in a derogatory manner about Jesus Christ or the church or you know you can say anything you want but boy you talk about Islam and that is, that is unacceptable to talk about Islam in a negative fashion. That, that's intolerance they say.

It's just crazy. But all you can, in my mind, all you can really ultimately finally attribute it to is just the delusion of the devil himself upon the minds of people. But this is his activity.

This is what he does. And the final aspect of the devil's work that we want to consider tonight is seen in the realm of religion. The so-called great religions of the world are actually false religions and the most subtle and deadly form of satanic activity.

Now that'll get me enough hate mail to last me for quite a while. But you know it's true. It's true and again you know we're living in a time when, when people say no, no, nothing's true.

They don't want to say anything is true. But you know anybody who's a serious Muslim, anybody who's a serious Hindu, anybody who's a serious Jew, Christian, whatever. Take any religion.

You know it's only these humanistic, postmodern minded people. It's the non-religious people for the most part who are standing back saying oh no all religions are equally the same. Everyone you know is, is just as equally valid and you should never.

You know like these people in the news that are coming against Dr. Vines because of his statements. Do you think these guys are believers in God at all? They're pure humanists. They're atheists.

But you see it works into their agenda to have all religions just basically teaching the same thing. Just sort of a muddled down and nothing really so they can ultimately control even that element of society. But the fact of the matter is this.

You talk to a Muslim and ask him if Christianity and Islam teach the same thing and he'll laugh in your face. Of course they don't. And Muslims are very bold about their claim that Muhammad is the greatest of the prophets and that Jesus was a prophet but he's not as great as Muhammad and if you even indicate such a thing you could be put to death.

And Hindus will tell you that Hinduism is superior to Islam and Christianity and Judaism and everything else and everybody you know this whole thing of all religions teach the same thing and so forth. Nobody who's serious about the religion believes that because they don't teach the same thing. And one of the things that you know this article I read from the New York Times today was you know talking about was you know they were castigating this guy because he said that Allah is not the Jehovah of the Bible.

Well how in the world do they know who Jehovah of the Bible is? But he's not. And the fact of the matter is both religions cannot be true. And every true Muslim knows that and every true Christian knows that.

Islam and Christianity are mutually exclusive. They can't both be true. One is true and one is false.

And that is the same with every other religion. And so these religions of the world, the great religions of the world, they all can't be true because they all contradict each other. They all can't be true.

They all could possibly be wrong. Even ours could be wrong conceivably. But only one can be right ultimately.

And the question is which one has a better case for truth and hands-down Christianity has it. There's no contest. The historicity of Jesus Christ, the whole Bible itself and its historical setting.

You know when you read the Bible you're reading history. It's obvious. It's plain.

It's clear. And the biblical history is accurate. All the liberals have tried to say the Bible's inaccurate historically.

That's all been proven to be nothing but rubbish. The Bible is historically accurate. The Bible is geographically accurate.

The Bible is archaeologically established as yeah this event that is recorded here in the Bible did take place in this part of the world at this time and we have archaeological evidence from that time to prove it. And so when it comes down to looking at all the religions of the world you know somebody might say well how could you say that all the other religions are false. Well you have to do a comparison.

You have to sit down and you have to look at the claims that are made and then you have to build your case from history and you find that no other religion has a case. Muhammad lived yes. He lived at a point in history.

But as I've pointed out to Muslims when I've been speaking to them and they've insisted to me that Muhammad is the greatest of all the prophets I say you know that's I find that very hard to believe on these grounds. If Moses was the or if Muhammad was the greatest of the prophets how come there was nothing to announce that he was going to come into the world? How come there was no advanced notice? How come there were no prophecies about his coming? If Muhammad was one of the greatest of the prophets why didn't he do some miraculous deed to show that he was a great prophet? Why didn't he do something like rise from the dead? And you know quite honestly when you get down to those kinds of things with them they themselves are puzzled about that. They're taught not to think about that sort of thing.

But that's reality. If Muhammad was the last and the greatest of the prophets God sure you know did it all backwards. And what what gives him that position of greatness? What did he do to you know prove that greatness? He didn't really do much of anything in a spiritual sense.

But you look at Jesus and you have Jesus who didn't simply appear on the scene out of nowhere but his coming was predicted and anticipated for thousands of years. Israel was looking for a Messiah because they had scriptures that declared that he was going to come, when he was going to come, under the circumstances that he would come, where he would come to, and all of those things. And then when he comes he doesn't just live some obscure life as a Bedouin out in the desert, but he goes about doing things that no person in the history of the world ever did before or has ever done since.

He goes around healing people of sicknesses. He multiplies small amounts of bread and fish and feeds thousands of people. He does these kinds of things.

He raises the dead. Then he goes to his own death and then he rises again from the dead. And the men that followed him gave their lives to prove that that his testimony or that their testimony of his resurrection was a reality.

When they were called upon to deny his resurrection or lose their lives they said, kill us. We know he lives and we'll live with him. So when I say that the great religions of the world are false religions, that's not just a dismissal of them without understanding what they're saying, but it's an absolute necessity if Christianity is true.

Because Christianity and these other religions are mutually exclusive. They cannot all be true. They cannot both be true, whichever one you compare with the other.

Now, as I said, the false religion is the most subtle and most deadly form of Satan's activity. It's the most subtle because they claim to lead people to God. And this is where you see Satan's, this is, the masterpiece of the devil is false religion.

They claim to lead people to God. They're the most deadly because they're aimed at destroying men's souls eternally. These other philosophies and things that have caused great injury and pain and suffering to people, as bad as they were, to a certain extent they were limited to the physical part of the person.

Jesus said don't don't fear those who can destroy your body but after that have no power. But rather fear him who after you're dead has power to throw your soul into hell. And this is where Satan really seeks to trap people.

He seeks to trap them in false religion. Because if he can do this, he doesn't only destroy their life in a physical sense, but he destroys their soul eternally. So in this category of false religion we have everything

from Hinduism with its millions of gods.

You see here's a great example. How could Christianity and Hinduism both be true? Hinduism teaches that there are millions of gods. Literally millions of gods.

Not just a few, you know, more than one, but millions. And Christianity teaches clearly there's one God. So all religions don't teach the same thing.

Buddhism, many people don't realize this, Buddhism is an atheistic religion. Buddhism does not believe actually in a personal God. Buddhism is more of a philosophy in some ways than a religion actually.

But there is ancestral worship as a part of it so it does bring it into the category of religion. But everything from Hinduism with its millions of gods down to Islam with its one tyrannical God, Allah. And everything in between.

That would fall into the category of false religion. Also included would be what we would call the pseudo-Christian cults. We're familiar with the Jehovah's Witnesses, we're familiar with the Latter-day Saints, the Mormons, and other similar kinds of groups.

They would come into that same category as well as apostate Protestantism. Protestantism that long ago left what Protestantism was in its beginning. And many of the Protestant churches today known as the mainline Protestant denominational churches have long ago left the faith.

They no longer believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. They no longer believe that he was born of a virgin. They no longer believe that he died an atoning death on the cross.

They no longer believe that he literally rose bodily from the dead. They don't believe that he's coming back. They don't believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

You wonder why in the world do they call themselves Christians? They reject outright everything the Bible teaches. But yet there are multitudes of people that attend those churches still. Their attendance and membership is declining, but nevertheless they would be into this same category here.

And then to a large degree Roman Catholicism would fall into this category as well. And so this is where Satan is busy at work in these different realms. The realm of nature, manipulating the natural forces and bringing disaster upon men, resulting in the destruction of many lives and the questioning of the goodness of God and often the blasphemy of God as a result of it.

The devil's work in society and just oppressing people through various philosophies and things and keeping people deceived. You know he really, you know Satan is ultimately a deceiver and however he can deceive you that's what he's gonna do. That's what he's gonna use.

People have inclinations toward religion, he'll deceive them through religion. People's people have dislike of religion, he'll get you into philosophy that suits you. But whatever the case, his ultimate goal is to destroy us eternally.

Jesus referred to him as both the deceiver and the thief and Satan comes that he might steal men's souls and rob them of eternal life. But thank God that his reign of terror is just about over. There is an appointed time in which he will pay the ultimate price for the rebellion that occurred so long ago and all that he has done in history to oppose the work of God and to inflict the creation of God.

And the deathblow really came through Jesus upon the cross. Remember the prophecy all the way back in the garden that was given. The woman through whom sin really was introduced into the world, she was deceived by the serpent as we know the story.

And you remember that God said in speaking to the serpent, he said that the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent. He said you shall bruise his heel but he shall crush your head. And the interesting thing to me is that I don't think the devil knew that at the time but it was simultaneous.

As the devil was bruising the heel of the seed of the woman, he was crushing his head at that moment because it was at the cross that Jesus destroyed the devil. Now you might say well if he destroyed him at the cross two thousand years ago what in the world's been happening since then? I mean he seems to still be pretty active. He does.

But the power that he holds over men now is only a power that is allowed by the man himself. You see people who are under the devil's influence today are under it because they choose to be under it in a sense. Jesus Christ has done everything that needed to be done to liberate them from that.

Prior to the coming of Christ there wasn't that liberation. It hadn't been provided. But now Jesus has destroyed the work of the devil to the extent that any person can come out from under his authority by receiving the gift of salvation and coming under the authority of Jesus Christ.

And what God is doing presently is he's demonstrating his victory over Satan on an individual level really from person to person. In the future he's going to demonstrate his victory over Satan on a universal level. And that's what we're waiting for.

That's what we're heading toward. And that's what we can't wait to see. But presently he gives victory to men and women on an individual basis.

And all of us at one time or another were the servants of sin and the servants of Satan. We were bound by him. We were in his camp so to speak.

We were under his control. We were deceived by him and we were basically his servants. But the Spirit of God came and convicted us of our sin and brought us to a knowledge of the salvation that God has provided.

And now we have been set free from that captivity and we are the children of God. And because of that Satan is angry with us and opposed to us and seeks with everything he has to try to thwart the work that God's wanting to do in us and through us. But Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil and through staying vitally connected to him we have the victory over the enemy in our lives personally.

We can pass that on to other people personally and ultimately finally and completely we'll see it manifest on a universal level. And it seems like that's actually not too far down the road really. As we think about these things, as we get a better understanding of these things through the Word of God, may God equip us with these things to help people.

People who are perhaps under his deception still. May God equip us and use us to help them come out from under that delusion. May God use us to reach out to people who are maybe involved in other religious systems.

To instruct them on the truth that's in Christ Jesus. To show them the beauty and the glory and the superiority of Christ over everyone else and of true biblical Christianity over every other system. May God use us in these days.

And of course we need that equipping so we need to know these things and then we need that power of the Spirit of God upon our lives and we receive that as we just seek the Lord daily and ask him to fill us up. And so may God lead us into victory. He's already won the war.

There are just these battles that are still going on here and there but we have the promise of the Word of God that the ultimate victory will come and that we're on the winning side. Thank God for that. Father we thank you that we are your servants.

Lord we were formerly serving the devil. All of us. Most of us anyway.

And Lord we thank you that you have liberated us. You've set us free. And Lord we pray that in these dark days that you would use us to lead other people out of darkness into your marvelous light.

And Lord we think of how you commissioned the Apostle Paul and you said to him that you were sending him to turn people from the power of Satan to the power of God. And Lord we pray that you would use us to do that as well. And Lord this information that we receive from your word about who's really behind these destructive things that go on in the world.

Who's really behind what's happening in our society. Who's really behind these religions. Lord may we wisely, tactfully, lovingly and yet powerfully, firmly communicate these things to people that you bring our way.

Lord we think of people that we know who are under the spell of false religion. People who choose to believe a lie over the truth. We pray that you would open their eyes.

And Lord we know that the scripture says that the God of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. And so Lord in Jesus name we pray that you would remove the blinders. We pray Lord that that veil that the devil has placed over the mind and the hearts of so many.

That by your mighty spirit that would be removed. People could see the truth and come to salvation. Lord pour out your spirit.

We cry out to you Lord. We look around us and we just see Lord that these are perilous times. And we desperately need your power.

Pour out your spirit and bring many into the kingdom in these days we pray. In Jesus name. Amen.

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Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/8/SID8790.mp3>

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