

Mary Craig

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Do a search on “who rules the world” and all kinds of interesting answers pop up, everything from the Rothschilds to the Illuminati to Rupert Murdoch to the United Nations to the Bilderberg Group to whoever is the current President of the United States to China, an emerging power. But what did Jesus say?

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

John 14:30: Hereafter I will not talk much with you; for the prince of this world comes, and has nothing in Me.

John 16:11, referring to the coming of the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit: Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

This prince or ruler is called by Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:4 the god of this world. “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4)

This entity is also referred to as the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). He promises the world to those who would obey him (Matthew 4:8, 9), though he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). “The whole world lies in the evil one” (1 John 5:19) as this ruler holds sway through deception and sin (Revelation 12:9).

Unseen spiritual powers are at work behind what we see in this tangible world of ours. Satan is the god of this world, the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience. He is the arch foe of the kingdom of God. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritualities of wickedness in the heavens, or high places.

This ruler has many names, all referring to one entity: devil, enemy, Satan, ruler of demons, strong man, Belial, serpent, tempter, adversary, Abaddon, Angel of the Bottomless Pit, great red dragon, Beelzebub, accuser of the brethren, wicked or evil one, the father of lies and a murderer of men’s souls, tempter, prince of demons...you

This world ruler is not self-existent, like Jesus Christ. He does not have those “omni” characteristics, all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere present. He’s a creation and needs permission from the Creator; Satan had to stay within God-defined boundaries in the Job case; and Jesus said of Peter that Satan had demanded to sift him (Peter) like wheat, e.g. He doesn’t abide in truth (John 8:44) and fell into condemnation (1 Timothy 3:6).

Okay. So a spiritual entity seems to be holding the strings, but he does not exercise totally free rein over people because of God imposing limitations and restraints to his actions. He rages against men (Rev. 12:12) and prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8), and blinds the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4), but Satan has been defeated in the life of believers, and believers need to know how. This evil one who devises schemes and traps and oversees a demonic realm of darkness and who inspires false religions, religious organizations, and worshippers, has been overcome.



Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords, ruler over the kings of the earth, Alpha and Omega. (Revelation 1:4-8, 17) He holds the keys of hell and of death.

How did this come about? When Adam fell, he chose to believe another wisdom, another voice, and in obeying that wisdom/voice, he put himself and his posterity under the influence of the evil one, in wickedness. That cut him and his posterity off from the presence of the Living God, the Creator. That left him and his posterity totally powerless to get back to the Father on their own. God in Genesis 3:15 promised the destruction of the tempter.

Jesus spoke the words recorded in John 12:31 as He made His entry into Jerusalem, resolute in His path of obedience. Various results stood in causal connection with His death. Jesus uttered a series of sayings describing His triumph over the world and over Satan and setting forth that His mediatorial dominion and the attractive power by which He should draw sinners to Himself are all based on His atoning death.

In John 12:31, Jesus had spoken of a new and just adjudication that would finally settle the matter of “ruler of the world.” It’s as if Jesus said, “It is now to be finally determined to whom this world shall rightfully belong---whether to Satan as prince of this world, or to Me as its owner and its heir forever. The final award in this great process is now to be given.”

Jesus addressed this issue of ruler of the world. Jesus’ work on the Cross conquered Satan’s evil kingdom of power and nullified its powers and effects in a work of destruction promised way back in Genesis 3:15. The grand adjudication of a judicial process took place. The question as to whom the world should belong as its prince was decided at once and forever. The Divine Court decided. That decision is final and

irreversible. Later passages represent Christ as the appointed heir of all things (Heb. 1:2), as Lord of all (Acts 10:36) and as having power over all flesh (John 17:2). Jesus Himself said after His resurrection that all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to him. (Matthew 28:18)

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

The Holy Spirit, when sent forth by the ascending Jesus, shall convince mankind that Satan has lost his cause and any kind of claim of legitimate power. Any authority he may have had or thought he had has been stripped from him. For the believer, no one is now compelled to remain under his power, unless, with his own resolve and purpose, he chooses darkness rather than the light. Are you in Christ? Satan has nothing, for Jesus said,

Hereafter I will not talk much with you;
for the prince of this world comes, and has nothing in Me.
John 14:30

The Holy Spirit convinces people that the decision is against Satan, and that Jesus is the rightful Prince and Savior, to whom they may and ought to give allegiance and loyalty. The Second Man by His obedience unto death has been affirmed forever as King of kings and Lord of lords, Lord of all, and heir of all things. The prince of this world has been driven out; the decisive blow has been delivered to Satan's hold upon this world with regard to those for whom Christ died.

What this means for believers is that the disciples of Jesus Christ are free people in the world. They can serve Christ with a good conscience in every position where they are placed by God's providence. "Now shall the prince of this world be cast out." Satan had to yield any claim to any kind of dominion. Jesus has entered into His rightful possession.

Wherever the atonement takes effect, Satan must yield ground. Any claims on the believer Satan asserts he has are gone, legally gone. Jesus has de jure sovereignty. Jesus has power over all flesh and exercises unlimited authority in every corner of the globe, according to His sovereign will, for the advancement of His cause.

Do not be deceived. Satan works through deception and lies. If, or whenever, we believe those lies, he has us. Satan does not abide in the truth. We must. He's a snake; he sneaks up on people. We must be sober and vigilant. (1 Peter 4:7)

Take this for example, something that happened to my husband recently. An allergy doctor came up with a small list of things my husband is allergic to: grass, palm trees, birds, and maybe a few other things. He wanted my husband to go on a three-year program of allergy shots and sign a paper of commitment to that effect. Now, symptoms of these allergies are not prominent; we live in South Florida where grass, palm trees, and birds abound. Hidden in the paperwork was a line about not leaving the country for three years. My husband turned it down. Why? Because he's under the call of God. He leaves the country on mission trips regularly. He cannot be put into a conundrum. Sneaky? You betcha. But God prevailed.

The elect are born-out-of God ones. We know that perfectly well. We also know that the whole world is in a place whose destiny lies in the evil one. The devil holds sway. Jesus Christ makes the difference. As to believers, we either know the truth and walk in it or we let the devil hold sway over us. Saved we may be, born again and Blood-bought children of God, but whenever we drift from the truth and doubt, we disobey and a little death occurs. Do not be overwhelmed, overcome. (1 John 5:18, 19)



Do we believe that the One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world? Our choices and God's preservation will confirm it.

In college, I had a communications professor who was part of a local coven. At a lecture, the leader of that coven was invited to speak. She talked about witches and came with all kinds of paraphernalia. Incense was spreading out over the students in the room until I quietly commanded it to be of none effect. The incense changed course. Later, in the cafeteria, some entity came behind me in the serving line and nearly knocked me over; no one was physically there. That did it. The members of this coven somehow invited and convinced me to sit at their table. They were trying to talk a young girl into joining their coven. The young girl sat across from me and suddenly she said, "You are different from them." I said, "Yes. That's because the One in me is greater than the one in them." With horror, the leader of the coven clutched her neck; the amulet she was wearing was getting hotter and hotter. She pulled it off her neck and then reached for her glass of milk. The milk had turned sour. We just looked at each other; I smiled.

I wasn't asking God to do this. God did this to glorify His Name and to in-trench this truth in me that He is greater. He is the One to fear; fear Him, not the devil. Believers overcome the kingdom of darkness through the Father of Mercies and the God of all Comfort who always leads them in triumph in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Resist the devil; Jesus has destroyed him and delivered believers who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9, Hebrews 2:14, 15). Humble yourself before the Lord. Exercise your faith in Christ and His redemptive work on your behalf. Pray and use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Walk in the power of Christ's Name. Overcome by the Blood of the Lamb.

Who rules your world?

Living in the Hope of the Gospel,

Mary J. Craig, D.P.M.

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Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins
In His own blood,
And has made us kings and priests unto God and His Father;
To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
Revelation 1:5b, 6