

Week Two

God, Man, and Satan

Hymns: 885

Scripture Reading: Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Matt. 12:26; Heb. 2:14; Rom. 16:20; Rev. 12:5, 7-11

Outline

§Day 1

- I. **The entire Bible is a record of the things concerning God, man, and Satan; therefore, in our reading of the Bible, we need to know not only the things concerning God and man but also the things concerning Satan—Gen. 1:1, 26-28; 3:1, 4, 15; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-19:**
 - A. **Satan was an angel and an anointed cherub created by God before God created the earth; he was the highest among the angels—vv. 12-15; Job 38:4-7:**
 1. Satan was the “Daystar, son of the dawn” (Isa. 14:12), one of the first angels created by God at the “dawn” of the universe, appointed by God to be the head of all the angels (Ezek. 28:14; Jude 9).
 2. The anointed cherub was appointed by God to rule over the preadamic universe (Luke 4:6); the anointed cherub was the one closest to God, and having both the kingship and the priesthood, he held the highest position in God’s creation (Ezek. 28:13).
 - B. **Satan’s rebellion against God is revealed in Isaiah 14:13-14 and Ezekiel 28:15-18:**
 1. Satan rebelled against God because of the pride in his heart; his heart was lifted up because of his beauty—Isa. 14:13-14; Ezek. 28:17.
 2. Satan’s intention was to overthrow God’s authority and to exalt himself to be equal with God; in his rebellion against God, Satan wanted to be on the same level as God—Isa. 14:13.

C. Because of his rebellion, Satan became God’s adversary, God’s enemy—Zech. 3:1-2; Rev. 12:9a; 20:2a:

1. Satan means “adversary”; as God’s adversary, Satan opposes God—Job 1:7, 12; 2:1, 6; Rev. 20:2.
2. Enemy refers to the foe outside of God’s kingdom, whereas adversary refers to the foe from within God’s kingdom.
3. Satan is not only God’s enemy outside of God’s kingdom but also God’s adversary from within God’s kingdom, rebelling against God.

§Day 2

II. The scene in Job 1 and 2 depicts two councils held in heaven concerning Job—1:6-12; 2:1-7:

A. Because of His loving concern for Job, God held two councils in the heavens to talk about Job—1:6; 2:1.

B. The “sons of God,” the angels, came to present themselves before Jehovah, and Satan, the adversary, also came among them—1:6; 2:1; 38:7; cf. 1 Kings 22:19-23; Psa. 89:5-8:

1. After he rebelled against God, Satan was condemned and even sentenced by God—Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-19.
2. Satan’s right to enter into the presence of God has not yet been taken away from him—cf. Rev. 12:10.

C. In His wisdom and sovereignty God did not execute His judgment on Satan but has given Satan a certain limited time to do something to meet some negative need in the fulfillment of His economy:

1. God could not and would not ask any of His many excellent angels to do what was needed to damage Job in order to strip him of everything so that he might be full of God—Job 1:1, 8, 11-12; 2:3-7.
2. Satan was the unique one in the universe who could and who would fulfill God’s intention of stripping Job of his possessions and ethical attainment—v. 3.
3. The scene in chapters 1 and 2 of Job shows us that Satan remains free to be purposely used by God as an ugly tool to execute God’s severe dealing with

§Day 3

III. Satan has his kingdom, the authority of darkness—Matt. 12:26; Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13:

- A. Satan has his authority (Acts 26:18) and his angels (Matt. 25:41), who are his subordinates as rulers, authorities, and world-rulers of the darkness of this world; hence, he has his kingdom, the authority of darkness (Col. 1:13).**
- B. Satan is the ruler of this world and the ruler of the authority of the air—John 12:31; Eph. 2:2:**
 - 1. The spirit (v. 2), in apposition to the authority of the air, refers to the aggregate power, the aggregate of all the evil angelic authorities, over which Satan is the ruler.
 - 2. When we were dead in offenses and sins (v. 1), we walked according to “the age of this world” (v. 2), the modern appearance, the present course, of the world, the satanic system.
 - 3. The rulers, the authorities, and the world-rulers of this darkness are the rebellious angels, who followed Satan in his rebellion against God and who now rule in the heavenlies over the nations of the world—Dan. 10:20.
 - 4. This indicates that the devil, Satan, has his kingdom in which he occupies the highest position and in which the rebellious angels are under him.

IV. Through His ministry on earth and His death on the cross, the Lord Jesus was victorious over Satan—1 John 3:8; Matt. 27:51-53; Col. 2:14-15; Heb. 2:14:

- A. In His earthly ministry the victorious Christ defeated the devil and destroyed his works—Matt. 4:1-11; 1 John 3:8:**
 - 1. For Him to accomplish His ministry for the kingdom of the heavens, the Lord Jesus had to defeat God’s enemy, the devil, Satan—Matt. 4:1, 11:
 - a. This He had to do as a man; hence, He stood as a man to confront the enemy of God—vv. 6-7.
 - b. The devil’s temptation of the first man, Adam, was a success; his temptation of the second man, Christ, was an absolute failure—v. 11.

2. In His ministry on earth the Lord Jesus destroyed the works of the devil—1 John 3:8:

- a. In 1 John 3:8 the Greek word translated “destroy” may also be translated “undo” or “dissolve.”
- b. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might undo and destroy the sinful deeds of the devil, that is, condemn, through His death on the cross in the flesh, sin initiated by him, the evil one; destroy the power of sin, the sinful nature of the devil; and take away both sin and sins—Rom. 8:3; Heb. 2:14; John 1:29.

B. In His crucifixion the victorious Christ cast out the ruler of this world, destroyed the devil, caused the rulers and authorities to be stripped off, and nullified death—12:31; Matt. 27:51; Heb. 2:14; Col. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:10:

1. In His work on the cross, Christ cast out the ruler of this world and judged the world—John 12:31:

- a. The ruler of this world was cast out when Satan was cast out by Christ’s work in His death; simultaneously, the world system related to Satan was judged—1 John 5:19.
- b. The base of Satan’s rebellion was shaken, and the strongholds of Satan’s earthly kingdom were broken—Matt. 27:51.

2. In His crucifixion Christ destroyed the devil—Heb. 2:14:

- a. In verse 14 the Greek word translated “destroy” can also be rendered as “bring to nought, make of none effect, do away with, abolish, annul, discard.”
- b. In His humanity and through His work on the cross, Christ has destroyed the devil—John 3:14.

3. In His work on the cross, Christ caused the angelic rulers and authorities to be stripped off, to be made a display of openly, and to be triumphed over by God—Col. 2:15.

4. In His work on the cross, Christ nullified death, making it of none effect, through His devil-destroying death (Heb. 2:14) and death-swallowing resurrection (1 Cor. 15:52-54)—2 Tim. 1:10.

C. Through the gospel of the kingdom, God brings people under

the ruling of the heavenly authority so that they may become His kingdom, those who are ruled by His authority—Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:5-6.

§Day 4

V. As believers in Christ Jesus and children of God, we need to learn to be victorious in Christ over Satan—Eph. 6:12; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; 1 John 5:18:

A. We should not be ignorant of Satan’s schemes—2 Cor. 2:11:

1. The Greek word translated “schemes” means “plans, plots, designs, wiles, intentions, purposes.”
2. The evil one, Satan, is behind the scenes in everything and works in everything, even in the church life.

B. We need to put on the whole armor of God so that we may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil—Eph. 6:11:

1. The devil has not only evil intentions but also deceptive stratagems to work out his intentions; these stratagems are his evil plots.
2. Putting on the whole armor of God enables us to stand against the stratagems of the devil—v. 11.
3. One of Satan’s stratagems against the saints of the Most High is to wear them out (Dan. 7:21, 25); when we see that Satan is wearing us out, we will have the power to withstand and oppose his wearing-out tactics.

C. We need to be watchful against our adversary, the devil, who “as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour”—1 Pet. 5:8:

1. To be watchful is to be vigilant as in warfare, as with soldiers on the frontier.
2. The word watch in 1 Peter 5:8 implies fighting; we are involved in a warfare, and we need to be vigilant.
3. If we are vigilant, we will withstand our adversary, being firm in our faith—v. 9:
 - a. To withstand is not to resist nor to struggle against but to stand firmly,

like a rock, on the ground of our faith before the roaring devil.

b. Your faith in 1 Peter 5:9 refers to the believers' subjective faith, their faith in God's protecting power and loving concern.

D. The best way for us to be victorious over Satan is to live in the mingled spirit—1 Cor. 6:17; 1 John 5:18:

1. There is only one place that Satan cannot invade—our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22.
2. Whether or not we are under Satan's authority is not determined by the things we do; rather, it is determined by whether we are in the spirit or in the flesh—Gal. 5:16-17.
3. As long as we remain in the mingled spirit, we will be kept, and Satan will have no way with us—1 Cor. 6:17; 1 John 5:4-5, 18-21.

§Day 5

VI. “The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly”—Rom. 16:20:

A. The crushing of Satan is related to the church life—the strongest means by which God overcomes Satan—vv. 20, 1, 16b.

B. The Greek word rendered “your” in Romans 16:20 is plural; this points to the Body—12:5:

1. Romans 16 does not refer to the Body in a universal sense but to the local and practical expression of the Body.
2. Dealing with Satan is a Body matter, not an individual matter.
3. Satan can be crushed only under the feet of the practical expression of the Body in the local churches—12:5; 16:1, 4, 16b.
4. It is only when we have a proper local church as the practical expression of the Body that Satan is crushed under our feet—v. 20.

C. It is significant that the One who crushes Satan under our feet is the God of peace—v. 20:

1. The God of peace is the Sanctifier; His sanctification brings in peace—1 Thes. 5:23.
2. When we are wholly sanctified by Him from within, we have peace with Him and with man in every way—v. 13; Rom. 6:19, 22; Heb. 13:12.

3. The peace of God guards, mounts guard over, our hearts and our thoughts because the God of peace patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ, keeping us calm and tranquil—Phil. 4:7.

§Day 6

VII. After the man-child is raptured to the throne of God, there is war in heaven, Satan and his angels are cast down to the earth, and the kingdom of God is manifested—Rev. 12:5, 7-11:

A. The man-child consists of the overcomers, who stand on behalf of the church, take the position that the whole church should take, and do the work of the church—2:7b, 11b; 12:5:

1. The man-child is always engaged in fighting against God's enemy, Satan, continually on earth.
2. Heaven is waiting for the man-child, the overcomers, to arrive so that a war may be waged to cast Satan out of heaven:
 - a. The war waged by the overcoming believers against Satan is actually the executing of the Lord's judgment upon him—John 12:31.
 - b. Eventually, through their fighting, Satan is cast out of heaven—Rev. 12:8-9.

B. The devil, the accuser, is now accusing the believers before God day and night, but the overcoming believers who constitute the man-child and who have been opposed and slandered by God's enemy, Satan, overcome him—vv. 10-11:

1. They overcome him "because of the blood of the Lamb"—v. 11a:
 - a. The blood of the Lamb, which is for our redemption, answers before God all the accusations of the devil against us and gives us the victory over him.
 - b. We need to apply this blood whenever we sense the accusation of the devil—Rom. 3:25; 1 John 1:7.
2. They overcome him "because of the word of their testimony"—Rev. 12:11b:
 - a. The word of their testimony is their word that testifies that the devil has been judged by the Lord—John 12:31; Heb. 2:14.

- b. Whenever we sense the devil's accusation, we should declare with the uttered word the Lord's victory over him.
- 3. **The overcomers do not love their soul-life—Rev. 12:11c:**
 - a. Not loving our soul-life is the basis for overcoming Satan, for our victory over Satan.
 - b. Not loving our soul-life means that we are willing to give up our own soul-life and that we do not care for our own soul-life—Mark 8:34-35.
 - c. Satan is afraid of only one kind of people—those who do not love their own soul-life—Rev. 12:11c.
- C. The man-child is related to God's most important dispensational move—Matt. 6:9-10; Rev. 11:15; 12:10:**
 - 1. God wants to end this age and bring in the age of the kingdom, and for this He must have the man-child as His dispensational instrument—v. 5.
 - 2. The rapture of the man-child brings an end to the church age and introduces the age of the kingdom—vv. 5, 10.
 - 3. The rapture of the man-child to the throne of God, the casting of Satan to the earth, and the declaration in heaven signify that the man-child will bring the kingdom to the earth; this is God's greatest dispensational move—vv. 5, 9-10; 11:15.

WEEK 2 — DAY 1

Morning Nourishment

Isa. 14:12-14 How you have fallen from heaven, O Daystar, son of the dawn! How you have been hewn down to earth....You said in your heart: I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will exalt my throne. And I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost parts of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

Just as the Bible speaks about God and man, it also speaks about Satan. We should not forget that immediately after man was created, God put him in front of two trees: one was the tree of life, and the other was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil....The tree of life denotes God and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil denotes Satan....The entire Bible is a record of the things concerning these three characters: [God, Satan, and man]. Therefore, in reading the Bible, we should not only know the things concerning God and the things concerning man, we should also know the things concerning Satan. If we have a good grasp concerning these three lines—the line of God, the line of man, and the line of Satan—the Bible will become crystal clear to us. (CWWL, 1959, vol. 3, “Ten Lines in the Bible,” p. 521)

Today's Reading

Satan's origin was wonderful.... He had not only the kingship, but also the priesthood, the very position that we, God's redeemed people, have forever (Rev. 5:9-10; 20:4-6). But he was deprived of his position and offices when he rebelled against God. Now God has chosen us to be His priests and kings, to take over Satan's position and offices, to put him to shame, and to glorify God.

Satan rebelled against God because of pride in his heart. Ezekiel 28:17 says that his heart was lifted up because of his beauty, that he corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness. He was “full of wisdom and perfect in beauty”; he “sealed up perfection” (Ezek. 28:12), meaning that he had the

full measure of completeness and was short of nothing. But he gazed on his beauty and was proud. He looked at his brightness and became corrupted. To look at what God has made us and forget God Himself always tempts us to be proud. Pride was the cause of Satan's rebellion. So, the apostle would never allow "a new convert" to be an elder in the church, "lest being blinded with pride he fall into the judgment suffered by the devil" (1 Tim. 3:6). All the natural virtues and attributes, and all the spiritual gifts can be utilized by the devil to make us proud. Even the apostle Paul could be "exceedingly lifted up" by the "transcendence of the revelations" (2 Cor. 12:7). The proud devil is still prowling about on the earth, seeking the proud ones whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). The only way to "withstand" him is to "humble" ourselves, to gird ourselves with humility because "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" (1 Pet. 5:9, 5-6). The Lord Jesus is a good example in this matter. Satan exalted himself, but the Lord Jesus "humbled Himself" (Phil. 2:8). Thus, the Lord overcame Satan, and Satan had nothing in Him (John 14:30).

The purpose of Satan's rebellion was to exalt himself to be equal with God. In Isaiah 14:13-14 we find that five times Satan said "I will," at the time of his rebellion.... Satan wanted to be equal with God. That was the purpose of his rebellion against God. Ambition for position was the motivation of every rebellion recorded in the Bible. The rebellion at Babel (Gen. 11:4), the rebellion of Dathan, Abiram, and the two hundred and fifty princes of the Israelites (Num. 16:1-3), and the rebellion of Absalom (2 Sam. 15:10-12) were all because of the evil ambition for position. But the Lord Jesus "emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave....Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name" (Phil. 2:7, 9). (Life-study of Genesis, pp. 16-17)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1959, vol. 3, "Ten Lines in the Bible," ch. 10; CWWL, 1932-1949, vol. 4, "Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Volume 6," ch. 53

WEEK 2 — DAY 2

Morning Nourishment

Job 2:4-7 Then Satan...said,...Indeed all that a man has he will give for the sake of his life. But stretch forth Your hand, and touch his bone and his flesh; and he will surely curse You to Your face. And Jehovah said to Satan, Here he is, in your hand; only spare his life. And Satan went forth from Jehovah's presence and struck Job with severe boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

In Isaiah 14:15 and Ezekiel 28:16-17 Satan was condemned by God and even sentenced by God. Yet in His wisdom and sovereignty God did not execute His judgment over Satan. He still has given Satan a certain limited time so that he can do something to meet some negative need in the fulfillment of God's economy....Without Satan, there would have been no one to do the ugly work of damaging Job in order to strip him of everything that he might be full of God. (Life-study of Job, p. 11)

Today's Reading

There was the need for someone to damage Job, not to judge him but to strip him of everything. Job had been laboring under God's blessing for many years and he had accumulated many things. He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a great many servants. He had a dear wife and seven sons and three daughters. Moreover, Job was very successful in being perfect and upright and in holding to his integrity. His possessions, success, and attainment made him a contented and satisfied person. Although Job was full of possessions and full of his attainment, he did not have God within him. As God looked upon Job, He might have said, "Job, what shall I do with you? You are full of your possessions and your attainment, but you are not full of Me. You have Me in name, but you do not have Me within you." Thus, for God's dealing with Job, Satan was needed. Satan was the unique one in the universe who could and who would fulfill God's intention of

stripping Job of his possessions and his ethical attainment.

“Jehovah said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil” (Job 1:8). Here God was boasting to Satan regarding Job. If we read this carefully, we will see that God’s boasting here was with the intention that Satan would do something for Him.

Satan answered Jehovah, asking Him, “Does Job fear God without cause? Have You not set a hedge around him and his household and all that he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his possessions are spread throughout the land” (vv. 9-10). God had set a hedge around Job, and He had blessed the work of his hands. In verse 11 Satan went on to say, “But stretch forth Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face.”

“Jehovah said to Satan, Here is all that he has, in your hand; only do not stretch forth your hand against him” (v. 12a). We should not think that God was caught by Satan, for Satan was caught by God to do something for Him—to strip Job for God. Satan, an evil angel, was willing to do what none of the good angels was willing to do, and he immediately accepted God’s commission.

Satan’s evil concept concerning God’s dealing with His seeking people is based on his commercial principle of gain or loss. Satan is a businessman, a merchant, and his thought is according to his commercial principle. He does not know that God’s purpose in dealing with those who love Him, even in the way of loss, is that they may gain Him to the fullest extent, more than the loss of all that they have other than Him, that He might be expressed through them for the fulfillment of the purpose in His creation of man (Gen. 1:26). (Life-study of Job, pp. 11-13)

Further Reading: Life-study of Job, msgs. 2-3; CWWL, 1950-1951, vol. 2, “Redemption in God’s Plan,” ch. 3; CWWN, vol. 44, ch. 90; CWWN, vol. 50, “Messages for Building Up New Believers (3),” ch. 50

WEEK 2 — DAY 3

Morning Nourishment

1 John 3:8 ...The Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Heb. 2:14 ...That through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

Other than our Lord Jesus Christ, no one is an overcomer. “The Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). “He [the seed of the woman] will bruise you [the serpent, Satan] on the head” (Gen. 3:15). Christ is the Victor. He is the One who has destroyed the works of the devil and the One who has bruised the serpent’s head. Christ has overcome. If we acknowledge this fact continually and join ourselves to Christ, we will overcome continually. Satan is the most afraid of our continually speaking this word of our testimony (Rev. 12:11), acknowledging Christ as the Overcomer. Such a word of testimony will drive Satan away. Christ has overcome. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! (See Mark 1:24, 27; 3:11.) (CWWN, vol. 1, p. 99)

Today’s Reading

The cross at Golgotha is the place where Satan and his power is defeated. The victory at Golgotha is still effective today. “Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it [the cross]” (Col. 2:15). “Through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil” (Heb. 2:14). Man may consider the Lord Jesus’ crucifixion as His failure, yet that was the very place of His victory. In the world, there is no way to determine the victor before the two armies have engaged one another and fought the battle. The Lord was crucified on the cross, and He resurrected from the dead. He went into death, fought with death, overcame the power of death, and then emerged victorious over everything. It would be impossible to say that the Lord has overcome Satan if He had not died and resurrected. This is why

the Lord had to die—to fight with Satan, he who has the might of death, and overcome him. The Lord’s resurrection is the proof of His victory. When Christ was advancing toward Golgotha, He said, “Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out” (John 12:31). Satan was defeated at Golgotha. All those who want to fight against Satan elsewhere are destined to fail. Other than at Golgotha, Satan is always victorious. He was defeated only at Golgotha, and he was defeated at Golgotha forever. Hence, all those who are joined to the Lamb of Golgotha, who stand on the basis of His victory at Golgotha, not attempting to gain another new victory but expressing the one unique victory in the present battle, will overcome. Defeat comes when one trusts in the self, but victory comes when one stands on the ground of Golgotha. Golgotha is the place of victory! Golgotha is our home! What can cause us to fear?

We are the Lord’s messengers declaring the victory at Golgotha and Christ as the Victor. “To whom I send you, ...to turn them...from the authority of Satan to God” (Acts 26:17-18). The victory at Golgotha is still effective today; Jesus the Savior is still the Victor. Satan is still the defeated one; he is powerless toward us. Hence, we all must turn away from the authority of Satan to God.

Christ is the Overcomer. When we are in Christ and are joined to Him, we will also be the overcomers. We can overcome every day because the Lord has said, “Behold, I have given you the authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy...The spirits are subject to you” (Luke 10:19-20). “In My name they will cast out demons” (Mark 16:17; cf. Acts 16:18; 19:15). Apart from the Lord, we can do nothing. We should abide in the Lord all the time. If we do everything in the Lord’s name, Satan will be defeated continually. (CWWN, vol. 1, pp. 100-101)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1972, vol. 2, “The Kingdom,” ch. 8; Life-study of Matthew, msg. 11; Life-study of John, msg. 26; Life-study of Acts, msg. 10; Life-study of Colossians, msg. 23; CWWL, 1984, vol. 3, “The Divine Economy,” ch. 7

WEEK 2 — DAY 4

Morning Nourishment

Eph. 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

1 John 5:18 ...He who has been begotten of God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him.

2 Tim. 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

The devil uses not only crafty ways in his work but also stratagems. His stratagems are always varied. We need the whole armor of God to stand against them. He can use all kinds of persons, things, and matters as his stratagems to trap us. He can also devise stratagems to deceive us and distract us from our true status before God, our true obtainments from God, our true service to God, our true love for God, and our true enjoyment of God. All his stratagems involve some element of truth being mixed with false and evil things; therefore, it is difficult to discern and recognize his stratagems. We need to be watchful and to pray, asking God to expose the devil's stratagems so that we would not be ignorant of his stratagems. (CWWL, 1932-1949, vol. 4, "Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Volume 6," p. 483)

Today's Reading

In order to stand against the devil, we must put on the whole armor of God. An individual Christian cannot wear the whole armor of God; it must be worn by the church. We must fight the devil's authority of darkness with all the saints. The warfare in Ephesians 6 is a warfare between the church and the devil's authority of darkness; therefore, the armor in Ephesians 6 must be worn by the church. If we live in the church, the Body of Christ, and put on the whole armor of God with all the saints in order to stand against the devil, we will overcome him and bring in the kingdom of God. (CWWL, 1932-1949, vol. 4, "Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Volume 6," p. 487)

We should forget about old religion. Having morning watch is worthless and praying is useless if we are not in the spirit. It is possible that our prayers have been in cooperation with Satan, that our morning watch has been infiltrated by Satan, and that even our service as an elder has been for Satan. This is not to say that we have brought idols into the church or have brought the brothers into sin. On the contrary, we may be very pious and diligent in leading the saints to have morning watch, to endeavor in this practice, and to endeavor in reading the Word. However, we may not realize that Satan has infiltrated all these things. There is only one place that Satan cannot invade—our spirit.

May the Lord be merciful to every one of us and grant us the heavenly vision. Do not think that merely being zealous and serving God is sufficient. Saul of Tarsus was also zealous and also served God, yet he was under the authority of Satan. His service to God, his zeal, and his keeping of the law were all under Satan's authority. Can we say that our zeal, our having morning watch, and our endeavoring in doing many things are not under Satan's authority? Whether or not we are under Satan's authority is not determined by the things we do. Rather, it is determined by whether we are in the spirit or in the flesh. Do we have morning watch in our natural being or in our spirit? If we have morning watch in our natural being, then even though we may rise at 5:30 A.M., our morning watch can be utilized by Satan. However, if we have morning watch in the spirit, there will be a different flavor.

We need to turn to our spirit. Being holy, victorious, or freed from sin is not what matters. The only thing that matters is that we live in the spirit where the Lord dwells. (CWWL, 1975-1976, vol. 1, "Living in the Spirit," pp. 473-474)

Further Reading: Life-study of 1 Peter, msg. 33; CWWL, 1975-1976, vol. 1, "Living in the Spirit," ch. 2; Truth Lessons—Level Four, vol. 3, lsn. 43; CWWN, vol. 38, ch. 52

WEEK 2 — DAY 5

Morning Nourishment

Rom. 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.
The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members
one of another.

16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church
which is in Cenchrea.

The Greek word rendered “your” in Romans 16:20 is plural; this points to the Body. God will crush Satan under the feet of the Body. Romans 16 does not refer to the Body in a universal sense, but it refers to the local and practical expression of the Body. This means that Satan can only be crushed under the feet of the practical expression of the Body in the local churches.... It is only when we have a proper local church as the practical expression of the Body that Satan is crushed under our feet. (Life-study of Romans, pp. 528-529)

Today's Reading

We must follow in the footsteps of the apostle. [Paul] brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings in order that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and that we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ (Rom. 16:1-16, 21-24, 20). In Romans 16 the apostle Paul greeted the saints one by one, mentioning at least twenty-seven names.... Moreover, he greeted the saints generally. This shows that he had a considerable amount of knowledge, understanding, and care with regard to every one of them. Such recommendations and greetings show both the mutual concern among the saints and the mutual fellowship among the churches. It is by the churches' fellowship in the Body that the God of peace will crush Satan under our feet and we will be able to enjoy the rich grace of Christ. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, “The Experience of God's Organic Salvation Equaling Reigning in Christ's Life,” p. 516)

The only way to overcome Satan is to stay in the high tower of our regenerated spirit. When we stay in the spirit, we are built up in the Body in a practical way. But if we stay in our minds, we shall be divided. This is true not only in the church life, but also in married life. If I remain in my mind and my wife remains in her mind, it will be impossible for us to be one. I have learned to have a healthy fear of staying in my mind....Whenever I am in the spirit, there is no problem with oneness. Both in the church life and in our family life we must be afraid of our minds that are so easily set on the flesh, afraid of the division caused by our dissenting thoughts and opinions (see Romans 8:6). When we find ourselves thinking critically of others, we need to turn immediately to the Lord in our spirit and pray. We all must learn the lesson of turning to the spirit and staying there.

In the spirit we experience not only Christ as life, but also the Body. In the spirit Christ is both our life personally and the life of the Body. Therefore, in the spirit with the divine life and with the Body of Christ, Satan is overcome and even crushed under our feet. He is defeated not by individuals, but by the Body.

Never neglect your regenerated spirit, the high tower within you where you may hide from Satan. Whenever you are tempted to argue with your wife or husband, you should run into this tower. Arguments in married life come from the mind assisted by the flesh. Whenever a brother has negative thoughts about his wife, the flesh will try to provoke him to argue with her. This indicates that the flesh is always ready to help the mind in a negative way....We should escape into the high tower of our reborn spirit, the place where Satan cannot touch us, the place where we enjoy Christ as our life and experience the reality of the Body. When we are in such a place, Satan can do nothing to us. (Life-study of Romans, pp. 531-532)

Further Reading: Life-study of Romans, msgs. 30, 49; Truth Lessons—Level Two, vol. 3, lsn. 29; Truth Lessons—Level Four, vol. 2, lsn. 38

WEEK 2 — DAY 6

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Immediately after the man-child is raptured to heaven, a war commences with Michael and his angels against Satan. This indicates that the man-child, the stronger part of God's people, is always engaged in fighting God's enemy, Satan. The overcomers have been fighting Satan continually, even unto death, and have defeated him on earth. But heaven is still waiting for them to arrive there so that a war may be waged to cast Satan out of heaven.

The Lord has shown us the most effective way to defeat the enemy. What we need to do is to take the covenant, the word of God, and preach to Satan regarding what the Lord has accomplished for us. For example, whenever we were troubled by our temper in the past, we firstly confessed it, then asked the Lord for forgiveness, prayed to the Lord to help us, and finally made up our mind never to lose our temper again. I experienced this many times. But we should not do this anymore. When our temper is aroused, we should forget it and preach to Satan. Go to the source of the problem—Satan—and preach to him, saying, "Satan, you have been crucified on the cross." The more you preach to Satan, the more you will be released. (Life-study of Revelation, p. 450)

Today's Reading

When the man-child is delivered and is raptured to the throne, he will say, "Satan, you were defeated by me on earth. Are you still here hiding in the heavens? Now I have come here to preach to you! Don't you remember

the messages I gave you on earth?"...Then the man-child will say, "Satan, you should no longer be here! Get out!" As soon as this word is uttered by the man-child, Michael the archangel will lead all his angels to war against the dragon. After the executor gives the word, all the policemen will come to carry it out. God is waiting in the heavens for this executor. Who will be the executor? We, the man-child. Let us go there to preach to Satan. Before we can do this, however, we must first defeat him on earth. After defeating Satan on earth, we shall fight upward to heaven, and eventually we shall fight downward to earth. Now as we confront Satan, we must give him many messages. Later we shall go to the heavens, meet him there, and preach to him again. Then after he has been cast down to earth to damage it, we shall descend and say to him, "Satan, are you still here? Let me give you another sermon. Now is the time for you to go to the abyss." Then after the millennium there will be the fourth sermon given to Satan. At that time, Satan will instigate mankind to rebel against God. But we shall say, "Satan, listen to us. This is our last sermon. Now you must go to your destination—the lake of fire."

If you would be qualified to participate in this, you must fight now. Do not be indifferent. I hope that after you read this message you will give a strong word to the enemy, saying, "Satan, you have deceived me for years. But by reading these messages my eyes have been opened and I see that I must no longer be indifferent. Satan, you are not only God's enemy—you are also my enemy. From now on, I will be absolute for my Lord and I will never listen to you."... If you preach to Satan like this, you will become another person and will probably soon be included in the stronger part of the woman. Begin now to be qualified, equipped, and perfected to be among those who will be raptured to heaven to execute judgment upon Satan. (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 450-451)

Further Reading: Life-study of Revelation, msgs. 35-36, 38-39, 45; CWWN, vol. 34, "The Glorious Church," ch. 4; The Conclusion of the New Testament, msgs. 22, 139, 421

<< **WEEK 2 — HYMN** >>

Hymns, #885 Fight the battle in the Body

Spiritual Warfare — In the Body

**1 Fight the battle in the Body,
Never fight it on your own;
With the Body to the Head joined,
Fight the battle on the throne.**

(Chorus)

*Fight the battle in the Body!
By the virtue of the Head;
Standing firmly with the Body,
Into vict'ry you'll be led.*

**2 For the Body is God's armor,
Not for anyone alone;
When you wrestle in the Body,
All its benefits you own.**

**3 'Tis the Church on Christ established
Satan shall not overpow'r;
'Tis the Body built together
Which resists the evil pow'r.**

**4 In the Body, by the Headship,
Sitting in the heavenlies,
Struggle with the wicked spirits
And the principalities.**

**5 As a member of the Body,
With the brethren stand for God;**

**Praying always in the Spirit,
Claim the vict'ry through the Blood.**

**6 In the heav'nlies more than conqu'ror,
In the power of His might,
As a soldier in the army,
In the Lord the battle fight.**

**7 Keep on wrestling in the Body,
Mighty vict'ry you will see,
Bind and loose, God's will fulfilling,
And the foes your food will be.**

