

Two princes and their kingdoms – Colossians 1: 12-13

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

The devil was called prince by Jesus in the Scriptures:

- *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.” John 12: 31*
- *“I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, John 14: 30” (see also Ephesians 2:2)*

Nevertheless, among His many titles, Jesus is called Prince in the Scriptures as well.

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

The reality of evil in the world

a) Humanity is in darkness, under the devil’s dominium and experiencing the curses of its kingdom.

- *We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one I John 5: 19*
- *And he led him up and^[c] showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “I will give you all this domain and their glory, because it has been handed over to me, and I can give it to whomever I want. ⁷ So if you will worship before me, all this will be yours.” Luke 4: 5-7*

b) The devil's rewards for his followers: murder, steal and destroy their lives

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

One of the greatest examples in the Bible that shows the reality of this truth.

A human being controlled by demonic powers and experiencing the tragedy of these evil spiritual creatures. Satan possessed his entire being, controlling his mind; he lived without peace, without hope, without honour, without any possibility of fellowship with his Creator and other humans, including his own family. In these terrible conditions, the Prince of Peace went to set him free, to give him the blessings of God's kingdom and to take him out of the curses of Satan's kingdom.

- *“When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones” Mark 5: 2-5*
- *And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. **16** And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. **17** Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. **19** However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” **20** And he departed and began*

*to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.
Mark 5: 15-29*

c) Every war since creation, every murder, every curse were all results of evil influence over the fall-humanity

Pestilences, drugs, immorality,

- *So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.⁸ And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. Job 2: 7*
- *Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. I John 3: 12*
- *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings^[g] of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Revelation 16; 13-14*

d) Falling humanity is in darkness because they hate truth

- *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it John.” 8: 44*

God had come to rescue His creatures

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son^[d] from the Father, full of grace and truth” John 1: 14

a) Giving thanks unto the Father ...Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness - Col. 1: 13

According to the passage, the Christians were delivered from the dominium of darkness.

How did this deliverance take place? Could such achievement be done by our own strength? Of course, the answer to the second question is NO. The statement above clearly says that it was God who did, therefore, Jesus, answered the first question, revealing how the rescue operation was done.

- *“And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every **kingdom** divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his **kingdom** stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the **kingdom of God** is come upon you. When a strong man armed **keepeth his palace**, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. Luke 11: 14- 22*

In the above passage, I highlighted the words Kingdom and palace (stronghold). Jesus is clarifying that the mute man was under the devil's control, incapable to get himself free from the satanic bondage and experiencing the curses of Satan's domain. Jesus also taught that Satan's kingdom is a very organized system that works combined and in harmony to fulfil its wicked goals mentioned above; otherwise, his kingdom would have ended long ago. And to finalize his point Jesus, points out that He was the

one with the power to overcome the prince of darkness and to snatch the spoils (souls) from his dominium.

- *The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. I John 3: 8*
- *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light. Eph. 5: 8*

b)...and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

The word rendered here "translated" is often used in the sense of removing a people from one country to another; see Josephus, Ant. ix. 11. 1.

I had visited different nations in the world, and seen people under the oppression of dictators, without rights, without freedom without access to truth, living under massive propaganda of its regime. Former citizens from North Korea, the Soviet Union, Venezuela and many African countries shared their testimonies of hardships in concentration camps, persecution until they could escape their afflictions; and got citizenship of some free nation. The apostle Paul said in the passage that Christians are now part of a new realm and subjected to a new Monarch, Jesus Christ the Son of God. Let's compare what both kingdoms offered to their citizens who are under their laws.

Satan's kingdom is darkness

- *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son Col 1: 12*

Jesus kingdom is light —

- Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8: 12

Satan's kingdom is a falsehood

- *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it John.” 8: 44*

Jesus's Kingdom is the truth

- *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14: 6*

Satan’s kingdom is death and destruction

- *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy... John 10: 10*

Jesus kingdom is abundant life —

- *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10: 10*

Satan’s kingdom is conflict, unrighteousness and sorrow

- *And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Revelation 13: 9*

Jesus kingdom is Justice, peace and joy

- *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.” Isaiah 9; 6-7*
- *“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans 14: 17*

Satan’s kingdom is corrupt

- *Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. I John 3: 8*

Jesus's kingdom is holiness

- *“Blessed are those who wash their robes,^[c] so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches”
Revelation 22: 14-16*

Satan's Kingdom is going to its destruction and judgment,

- *Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” Revelation 12: 12*
- *and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20: 10*

Jesus kingdom is eternal —

- *“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,” Daniel 2: 44*
- *“and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14*
- *“For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1: 11*

c) Which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Col. 1:12

The very presence of Jesus in His kingdom reflects its light:

- *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8: 12*
- *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. Rev. 21: 23*

d) In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins Col. 1: 13

There is a contrast between the worth citizens of Satan's kingdom and the citizens of Jesus's kingdom.

There was nothing on this planet more costly than Jesus's blood. The Bible states that a soul could not be redeemed with gold or silver.

- *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." I Peter 1: 18-19*

The psalmist affirms this reality as well. He wrote:

- *"They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever)" Psalm 49: 7-9*

There are other contrasts here as well. Paul says that, while Satan made men slave of sin, Jesus with His blood paid the ransom to set his men free. While Satan accused humanity of sin, Jesus through His death forgave all our sins.

- *“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers^[b] has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”*

Revelation 12: 9-11

- *“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,” Colossians 2: 13*

The amazing wonder of the word of God and the Holy Spirit to regenerate a sinner so, that he might see and enter God’s kingdom (which means Jesus’s kingdom, for everything that belongs to the Father, belongs to the Son - John 16: 15)

- *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” John 3: 3-7*

The born again believer has an assurance of his new status

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

The final contrast between the citizens of both kingdoms

Among hundreds of Scriptures verses about the final destiny of Satan's followers and Jesus' followers, I mention the following one that describes the answer to this question.

- *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. II
Thessalonians 1: 7-10*

The choice you must make.

Which prince are you going to serve: the prince of this world or the Prince of Peace?

Which status are you holding now: The heavenly one or an earthly one?

Why are you living in the bondage of Satan's kingdom if you can get your new nationality?

God is not promising you a refuge, or immigration status, He is offering you an inheritance and adoption into the divine family.

Are you carrying on the burden of a slave or the freedom of a citizen?

Are you experiencing peace, love, joy, righteousness and all the blessings of Jesus's kingdom or the curses of the kingdom of Satan?

Do you want to ask God to forgive your sins, accepting the redemption of Jesus' blood to buy your soul, therefore having the privilege to see and to enter into Jesus' kingdom?

Did you understand what the Scriptures tell the important decision you must make?

MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION!

