

# THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

**I John 3:8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

**Isaiah 61:1** The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn

**II Corinthians 10:4** The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

**Psalms 108:12-13 NASB** Oh, give us help against the adversary, for deliverance by man is in vain. Through God we shall do valiantly; and it is He who will tread down our adversaries.

## Spiritual Resistance to Us Obeying Christ

### The Reality of the Resistance

**Isaiah 14:12-15** How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." 15 But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

**Ezekiel 28:12-17** "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15 You were blameless

in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. 16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

**2 Peter 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; Jude 6 and the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home--these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

## **SATAN**

Satan is referred to throughout scripture as:

- “the devil” (Acts 10:38; 13:10; Ephesians 4:27; 6:11; I Timothy 3:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:26; Hebrews 2:14; James 3:15; 4:7; 1 John 3:8, 10)
- the “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- the “evil one” (Eph. 6:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:3)
- “the enemy” (1 Timothy 5:14).

He is further identified as

- “the tempter” and “the serpent” of Genesis 3 (2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; Revelations 12:9; 20:2).
- Paul also identifies him as an “angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- John taps into the Old Testament traditions of Leviathan and identifies him as “the great dragon” (Revelations 12:9; 20:2).

None of this terminology is unique to the New Testament. Also: controller of the systems of this world (I John 5:19), prince of this world (John 16:11), ruler of the kingdom of the air, and the spirit of disobedience in the world (Ephesians 2:2).

## **We Are at War**

The Bible as well as the early postapostolic Church assumes that the creation is caught up in the crossfire of an age-old cosmic battle between good and evil. As in other warfare worldviews, the Bible assumes that the course of this warfare greatly affects life on earth. (Boyd, 18)

Hostile, evil, cosmic forces that are seeking to destroy God’s beneficent plan for the cosmos have, in fact, seized God’s good creation. God wages war against these forces, however, and through the person of Jesus Christ has now secured the overthrow of this evil cosmic army. The Church as the Body of Christ has been called to be a decisive means by which this final overthrow is to be carried out. (Boyd, 19)

*Exorcisms in Acts*—As in Jesus’ ministry, this warfare can sometimes involve actual exorcisms, according to Acts. While there are only four references in Acts to exorcisms, the way they are recorded, combined with the numerous references to exorcism in the postapostolic church, indicates that exorcism was a standard part of early Christian life.

Reflecting the same outlook, Paul tells Timothy to “share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus” and reminds him that “no one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier’s aim is to please the enlisting officer” (2 Timothy 2:3-4). Also, he refers, quite incidentally, to Epaphroditus and to Archippus as “fellow soldier” (Philippians 2:25; Philemon 2; cf. 1 Corinthians 9:7).

Thus, the Christian life is for Paul a life of spiritual military service. It is about being a good soldier (2 Timothy 2:4), about “fighting the good fight” (1 Timothy 1:18; 6:12), about “waging war” (2 Corinthians 10:3), and about “struggling” with a cosmic enemy (Ephesians 6:12). Given his view of the ever-present reality of Satan and his kingdom, and given his understanding of what Christ was about and what the church is supposed to be about, it is hard to see how [Paul] could have viewed the Christian life differently. (Boyd, 282)

These authors never pondered “why bad things happen to good people,” for they lived with a warfare worldview that expected bad things to happen to good people. If the world is as thoroughly saturated with evil forces as they envisioned, then nightmarish suffering would not come as a great surprise. They understood (because Jesus taught) that, if the Lord of all creation suffered at the hands of these evil forces, they could hardly expect to fare better (John 15:20-21; cf. 1 Corinthians 2:8). The New Testament tells “good people” to expect bad things! (Boyd, 283)

Despite Christ’s victory, the New Testament continues to define the Christian life in warfare terms. The outcome of the war is settled, but there are still important battles to be fought. Fighting them is what the Christian life is all about. As Wingren puts it, “It is impossible for man in the days of . . . the Church, to have to do with God without at the same time, in some way, having to do with the Devil. These, two . . . fill all existence.” The confidence and hope of the believer in all of this is that Christ has once and for all time vanquished the enemy, and that someday this victory over Satan and the cessation of all the evil that flows from him shall be perfectly manifested. (Boyd, 290-291)

## **But Isn't God In Control?**

Does ...omnipotence necessarily entail that God is all-controlling, as the classical-philosophical tradition after Augustine has been inclined to assume? ... a good divine purpose lies behind all particular events, ...People suffer, we are to believe, because they deserve it!...If we do not flinch from the concrete horror, there comes a point when the notions that God has a purpose for everything, that things always go His way, and that nothing can genuinely oppose him get stretched to the breaking point...It requires the understanding that it is possible for some beings (angels and humans at least) genuinely to resist, and even to thwart, whatever blueprint God might wish their lives to follow. . .such that he does not necessarily always get his way, and may in fact detest the way some things are turning out. It requires the view that God does not monopolize power, and hence that omnipotence cannot be equated with meticulous omnicontrol. It therefore requires that we do not find solace in any view that would try to reduce evil down to an aesthetic antithesis that secretly contributes to the higher harmony of the cosmic whole. ...if we are willing to consider the possibility that spiritual forces exist, some of whom are perhaps major cosmic forces who possess morally responsible free will just as we do, then, I believe, we are on our way to a perspective of God and his relationship to the world in which evil does not constitute an unsolvable intellectual problem. We are, in short, on our way to embracing a warfare worldview. (Boyd, 41-51)

(The early church) almost unanimously locates the ultimate reason for why there is evil in the world in the evil will of Satan, while the post – Augustine church and the whole of the classical-philosophical tradition following him tends paradoxically to locate the ultimate rationale for evil within the mysterious, omnibenevolent, all-encompassing will of the Creator. (Boyd, 54)

By contrast, the New Testament and early postapostolic church always thought of the problem of evil in the context of spiritual warfare. The world is caught up in a cosmic battle and thus is saturated with horrifying suffering and diabolical evil. That is the final explanation for evil. (Boyd, 56)

The warfare worldview thus presupposes the reality of relatively autonomous free creatures, human and angelic, who can and do act genuinely on their own, and who can and do sometimes go against God's will. It thus presupposes the reality of radical contingency and of genuine risk. It further presupposes that this risk has sometimes gone bad, even on a cosmic scale, and that this has turned the earth into a veritable war zone. (Boyd,58)

In a state of war, bullets fly, bombs explode, mines are stepped on, and children are maimed. War is hell. This is expected. The only real problem is in confronting the evil and in overcoming it. Hence this worldview at once frees us from futilely asking questions we cannot answer and empowers us and motivates us to fight battles we can win. (Boyd, 58-59)

...than the climate is ripe for a restoration of a New Testament model of the church as the supernaturally empowered body of Christ that carries on the work which the Son began during his incarnate ministry. And it means that the time is ripe for a return to a biblical perspective on the problem of evil that defines it more as a spiritual problem to confront than an unsolvable intellectual problem to ponder futilely. (Boyd, 66)

## **The Nature of Those Who Want to Lead Us to Disobedience**

**Personal**-Ephesians 6:12

**Spirits-Ephesians 6:12**- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**Powerful**-Ephesians 6:12, **Acts 19:16-17** Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Daniel 10

**Limited Knowledge** – Did not know who the sons of Sceva were. **Acts 19:15** And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”

**Alive** – It chooses to live somewhere. **Matthew 12:43-45** 43“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

**Have emotions** – **James 2:19** GNB “the demons believe and tremble with fear.”

**Able to speak** – **Luke 4:34** ...saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

### **Types of Spiritual Beings:**

- Angels, Powers, Authorities **1 Peter 3:22** “who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.”

## GENERAL CATEGORIES

In the Gospels, they are often referred to simply as demons (Romans 8:38; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; 1 Timothy 4:1; James 2:19; Revelation 9:20; 16:14; 18:2). Other times they are referred to as messengers or angels (Romans 8:38; 1 Corinthians 6:3; 11:10; 2 Corinthians 12:7; Galatians 1:8; Colossians 2:18; 1 Peter 3:22; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7,9).

Still other times, especially in Paul, we find suprahuman beings, some good and some evil, referred to in more esoteric apocalyptic terminology. Hence Paul sometimes refers to what appears to be high-level angelic beings as *archai* or *archontes* (“rulers” or “principalities” Romans 8:38; 1 Corinthians 2:6,8; 15:24; Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; 6:12; Colossians 1:16; 2:10, 15). He seems to be referring to other high-level classes of beings with the terms *exousiai* and *dynameis* (“powers” or “authorities” Romans 8:38; 13:1; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 1:21; 2:2; 3:10; 6:12; Colossians 1:16; 2:10, 15), and to still other classes of heavenly beings with the terms *kyriotetos* (“dominion” Ephesians 1:21; Colossians 1:16), *kosmokratores* (“cosmic powers” Ephesians 6:12), *thronoi* (“thrones” Colossians 1:16) and *pneumatika* (“spiritual forces” Ephesians 6:12). Finally, he is in all probability referring to something akin to “angels of nature” with his *phrasestoi cheia tou kosmou* (“elemental spirits of the universe” Colossians 2:8, 20; Galatians 4:3, 8-9). (Boyd, 270-271)

### Where Did Demons Come From? Three Views

The Following information is taken from Deliver Us From Evil by Cindy Jacobs (Page 185).

1. The Gap Theory is described by Gordon Lindsay who wrote: “There is a general belief among Bible scholars that demons had their origin in a pre-Adamic age. In this theory, the demons are not fallen angels, but the actual people who were part of this age who participated in Satan’s rebellion. This rebellion of Satan occurred between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. The premise is that God created the world in a perfect state, not the chaos as described in verse 2. Other supporting scriptures for this theory are found in Jeremiah 4:23-26, Ezekiel 28:14-15, Isaiah 14:13-14 and Isaiah 24:1).
2. Demons are the offspring of the sons of God (angels) and the daughters of men (see Genesis 6:2) who produced giants or the mighty men of old (see Genesis 6:4). These giants are called nephilim and had abnormal bodies.. Some had six fingers (I Chronicles 20:6). ..... Some believe this is where the legends of Thor, Zeus, and other Greek gods got their origins. These fallen angels might be described in Jude 6 as one bound in chains who did not keep their proper domain. Other Scriptures concerning this subject include Job 1:6, 2:1, and 38:7.
3. Demons are fallen angels. This is most commonly taught on the origin of demons and the easiest to understand. Scriptures for this

interpretation include Matthew 12:24; Revelations 12:4,7,9; Jude 6; 2; Peter 2:4.

**Powers - Romans 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 6:12, **Colossians 2:11-15** In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

These powers may be the same as Elementary spirits – Colossians 2 and Galatians 4 (lit. letters of alphabet). They are ordering principles intended to keep the creation from falling apart. They appear to be responsible for magnetic fields.

**Authorities** - Carry the empowering of blessings and curses. (Webster-"legal or rightful power; a right to command or to act; dominion; jurisdiction)

## Rankings

**Territorial** - Principalities placed over geographical areas, i.e. cities, countries, continents.

**Those levels affecting individuals**-known as strongman, legion, throne, ruler, chiefs, no-names-Ephesians 6:12, **Romans 8:38** - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Colossians 1:16** For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. **Ephesians 1:20** which He exerted in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms.

## The Story of Redemption - Leading Men and Women from Disobedience to Obedience

**The world was made for man and woman and they were appointed as masters over the world.** Genesis 1:29-30 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

**When man and woman sinned they turned over their dominion to Satan.** When humanity rejected Yahweh's lordship, we accepted (by unleashing) a new "god of this world." We compromised our assigned task to have dominion over the world and thus subjected ourselves and all of nature once again to the destructive influence of the forces that oppose God. The guardians of the world, and therefore the world itself, were thus taken hostage by an illegitimate hostile power. Satan now seizes "control of the entire world" and becomes "the prince of this age" and "the ruler of the kingdom of the air" (1 John 5:19; John 12:31; Ephesians 2:2; cf. 6:12). Through Christ, however, the key has been given back to those originally intended as landlords, and we are once again commissioned to shut up Yamm [sea monster] on the Lord's authority (Matthew 16:17-19; see part two). (Boyd, 111) See also I John 5:19

**At the fall Satan became the ruler of the world. Ephesians 2:2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient., 6:12, **II Corinthians 4:4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Three times the Jesus of John's Gospel refers to Satan as "the prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). He here uses the word *archon*, which was customarily used to denote "the highest official in a city or a region in the Greco-Roman world." Hence Jesus is saying that, concerning ruling powers over the cosmos, this evil ruler is highest.

The world is described as "under the power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19) and that Satan is "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4) and "the ruler of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). (Boyd, 181)

**Since Adam and Eve turned over their legal dominion to Satan, God recognizes Satan's legal standing.** Thus when Satan claimed that he could give all the "authority" and "glory" of "all the kingdoms of the world" to whomever he wanted for they all belonged to him, Jesus did not dispute him (Luke 4:5-6).

**God is all-powerful and He can blast Satan into oblivion. However God's power does not operate apart from his character and His rule.**

**The government of the earth was delegated to man. Since man gave it to Satan, only a man can legally recover the rule of the earth.**

**Since all men have sinned and are legally under Satan's dominion, man's condition was hopeless.**

**God solved the problem through the incarnation of Jesus Christ.** Because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, He was not a fallen man and Satan had no claim on Him. Born of a virgin, He was fully human and therefore a full member of the human race. Thus he was the second Adam.

**The temptation of Jesus was Satan's first defeat since the Garden of Eden.**

**The cross and resurrection completed the victory of Jesus Christ.** Jesus recovered the deed of trust. The enemy now is a squatter on what belongs to God. Every time we pray confronting the enemy we declare the legal and moral framework for God to release His power and take back what the enemy has taken. Colossians 1:13-14

Man's appointed vocation in Paradise consisted in the winning back of the earth for God, and this again was based upon the sovereignty of God over man and the sovereignty of man over the creation . . .

Man's calling was to "destroy the works of the devil" and to renew the earth, thus transforming it into an abode of light and life . . . The first man . . . received the task, beginning from Paradise, to restore the whole earth to an abode of the presence and revelation of God. His service as ruler consisted in bringing the whole of creation through his mediation into relation with the glory of God and in making the "fullness of him that filleth all in all" accessible to it. (Boyd, 110-111)

Thus as Scripture portrays the matter, the foundational reason Christ appeared was "to destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8), to disarm "the rulers and authorities" (Colossians 2:15), and to "destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14). The consequence of this victory is that he is seated on his rightful throne, the whole cosmos is liberated from a tyrannical and destructive ruler, humanity is delivered "from the power of darkness and transferred . . . into the kingdom of his beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13), and all who accept it are thereby reinstated to the original position and responsibility of stewards of the creation that God had always intended for us. (Boyd, 241)

The author of Hebrews expresses the same prioritization when he writes that Christ shared in our humanity “so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil” (2:14). The consequence of this, he adds, is to “free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death” (2:15). Before the chains of death could be broken, the “strong man” who tyrannized us with them had to be “tied up” (Matthew 12:29) or “destroyed.” (Boyd, 260)

## **How The Enemy Leads Us to Disobedience**

**Aggravates us to Sin - John 13:2-4** And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments...

**I Corinthians 7:5** Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

I Chronicles 21:1

**Causes sickness and suffering - Acts 10:38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (not all sickness- **Matthew 4:24** Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.) dumbness: Matthew 9:32-33, deformity: Luke 13:1, compulsive behavior: Luke 8:27

**Power of death-** Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil.

Viewed in this light, the various accounts of Jesus' raising people from the dead come to mean a lot more than simply nice miracles that Jesus did for people. Like his exorcisms, healings and other miracles over nature, they reveal yet another dimension of his war on Satan. As when he saw the sick and hungry, Jesus was moved by compassion toward those who had died and those who mourned, for he knew that these things were never intended to be part of God's creation (e.g., John 11:33-35). They were, rather, the work of the devil, and it grieved and angered him to see it. (Boyd, 213)

**Sets Traps- I Timothy 3:7** Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.  
John 8:44

**Controls- Mark 5:1-4 1** Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. **2** And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, **3** who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, **4** because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him.

**Seeks to take away word of God - Matthew 13:4** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

**Accuses us before God- Job 1:6-9 6** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. **7** 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." **8** 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?" 9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

**Zechariah 3:1** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.  
Luke 22:31

**Wants us to act independently of God- Matthew 16:23** Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

**Psalm 106:36** They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them.

**Wants us to be unforgiving - 2 Corinthians 2:10-11** 10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one<sup>[a]</sup> for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

**Fills us with pride-** I Timothy 3:6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

**Controls world governments and philosophies- Daniel 10:4-8a** Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. 7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. 8 Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me... Daniel 10:13,16 (Arnold - "The word prince in this passage is translated from the word "archon" in one of the Greek versions of the book Daniel. Archon is a word that all four of the Gospel writers and Paul later used either for Satan or for evil spirit powers.), Deu. 32:8,9. (Arnold-"The Greek version of the Old Testament interprets "the sons of God" as angels and thus translates the key phrase "he fixed the bounds of the peoples according to the number of the angels of God." The evil powers seem to reflect this same organization.)

**Follows Gods direction - I Kings 22:17-19** 17 Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, "These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace." 18 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" 19 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. 20 And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one

spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' 22 The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.'

**Isaiah 37:7** Listen! I am going to put a spirit in him so that when he hears a certain report, he will return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword. Psalm 78:49, 2 Corinthians 12:7

**Carries curses** - Ecclesiastes 10:20 Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird of the air may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say.

**Causes Fear** - Song of Songs 3:8

**Tied to wild animals** - Isaiah 34:14 Desert creatures will meet with hyenas, and wild goats will bleat to each other; there the night creatures will also repose and find for themselves places of rest. (see Arnold)

**Disciplines believers - I Corinthians 5:5** Hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

**Controls false teachers - I Timothy 4:1** The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

**Affects Nature** -The most significant of Jesus' miracles over nature for our purposes is undoubtedly Jesus' calming of the raging sea (Mark 4:36-41; Matthew 8:18-27; Luke 8:22-25).

As James Kallas puts it: "If language means anything at all, it appears that Jesus looked upon this ordinary storm at sea, this ordinary event of nature, as a demonic force, and he strangled it."

Behind this storm Jesus perceived a demonic power, perhaps here strategizing to kill him and his disciples. To cite Kallas again: "Rain may be normal, but to Jesus, when nature goes berserk and tries to drown men and wipe them off the earth sucking them down to a watery grave, this is demonic and he treats it like a demon."(Boyd, 206-207)

## Our Disobedience

**Three major ways:**

**Birth** (Parental sins-Ancestral-**Exodus 20:4-6** You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand of those who love me and keep my commandments, **Lamentations 5:7** Our fathers sinned and are no more, and we bear their punishment. **Leviticus 26:39** those of you who are left will waste away in the lands of their enemies because of their sins; also because of their fathers' sins they will waste away **Isaiah 65:6-7** "See, it stands written before me: I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps both your sins and the sins of your fathers," says the LORD. "Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied me on the hills, I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds.", **Psalm 106:27**, make their descendants fall among the nations and scatter them throughout the lands. Jeremiah 31:29

**Child Abuse** (sexual, physical, psychological, ritual),  
See Deuteronomy 32:16-17, I Corinthians 10:19, 20

**Willful sinful actions:** séances, curses **Proverbs 26:2** "Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest", witch curses, channeling, spirit guides, anger (Genesis 4:7 sin crouching may be a demon and I John 3:12 Cain of Evil one), occult (hidden things), divination (direct message from gods), magic Luke 8,13,16,19, spiritism (contact spirits of the dead), tarot cards, astrology (Arnold - An intriguing aspect of Paul's vocabulary for the principalities and powers is that both pagans and Jews used the same expressions for astral spirits. The word "powers" [dynamis] itself can be found in astrological contexts for star spirits. The expression "world rulers" [kosmokratores] of Ephesians 6:12 is also used of astral deities.) Rod and pendulum (water witching), love and hate magic, fertility charms, fortune telling, palm reading, psychometry (telling about a person from an object), necromancy (summoning dead), ouija board, drug usage (pharmakia), drunkenness, abortion, sexual sins **Hosea 4:12, 5:4** "Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD crystal ball, predictive dreams or visions, movies, tongues **I John 4:1** Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world, mirror magic (Mary Worth), table tapping, levitation, lay hypnosis, cults, Forum, Masons, magic charms, Indian dolls, painting by medicine men, books of magic (**Acts 19:18** 19 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas), voodoo dolls, religious masks, war spears, card laying, (Arnold "Pagans believed their gods were alive and could help them in practical ways for their earthly

needs and, in many instances, bring them a blissful afterlife. The early Christians including Paul saw these gods as alive too, but in a different sense. They believed demons, the powers of Satan, inspired and perpetuated these pagan gods." Gossip-saying words against others or myself (curse).

**What the Bible Says-** Deuteronomy 18:9-14, Exodus 22:18, I Chronicles 10:13, Leviticus 19:31; I Corinthians 10:14-22.

### **What the enemy can do to us – Biblical Evidence**

“daimonizomai” – Matthew 4:24, Matthew 15:22, John 10:20 – demonization

“echo” – Acts 8:7, Acts 16:16 – possessed or to ‘had’ ‘having’ {a demon}

‘katadinasteuo’ Acts 10:38 – overpowered

## **The Results of Our Disobedience**

**Physical** - blindness, seizures, spells of unconsciousness, amnesia, foaming at the mouth, excessive sexual activity or cravings, cuts on body, migraine headaches, choking, drugs, alcohol, and strangeness about the eyes.

**Emotional and Psychological-** moral depravity, deep melancholy, extreme ecstasy, violence, cursing, shame, extreme guilt, fear of going insane, sense of isolation, thoughts of violence towards others, suicidal suggestions, thoughts you hate, voices, fear, abnormal aggression, sudden fluctuations in moods, preoccupation with rock music. What about mental illness?

**Spiritual** - resistance to prayer, Bible study, worship, hatred of the cross, hatred of the blood of Christ, speaking in unlearned languages (sometimes), inability to write or say the name of Jesus, can't act on Christian counsel, can't renounce the works of the devil, fear that God has forsaken you, sensing threats from God, uncontrollable laughter at holy things.

## **Through Christ We Can Be Obedient**

**Perfect Acceptance- Ephesians 1:4-7** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. **John 15:15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. We are

princes and princesses. We are His masterpiece. We should carry His image proudly.

**Perfect Access - Ephesians 2:5-7** 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**I Peter 5:7-9** Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist Him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**Perfect Authority- Colossians 2:15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross, **Ephesians 1:17-23** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

**We need to exercise our authority** (Arnold)- "Psalm 110:1 was the most frequently cited Old Testament passage by early Christian writers. It was commonly used to interpret God's enthronement of Christ. The 'enemies' of this psalm were always identified with the invisible powers whom Christ defeated and subjugated." **I Corinthians 2:6-8** We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.. (Arnold)- "There are a number of good reasons for believing Paul intended his readers to think of demonic rulers when they read this passage." **Romans 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Arnold "It appears that Paul may have used the terms height and depth as a comprehensive way of referring to all the astral spirits who were commonly believed to control human destiny. In astronomical texts both terms appear technical. They were used to refer to the zenith and nadir of the stars, that is, the highest and lowest points reached by a heavenly body. It may be intentional that Paul's very next expression is, literally, 'nor any other creature.'

## **WE ARE TO ESTABLISH GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH**

For Jesus, healings and exorcisms clearly did not merely symbolize the kingdom of God—they were the kingdom of God.

In the opening of Mark's Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry by announcing: "The Kingdom of God has come near: repent, and believe in the good news (Mark 1:15). This is the total content of what Mark tells us Jesus preached. But everything that follows informs us what this kingdom preaching means, and it does so by illustration. After calling his disciples, Jesus amazes the people with the authority of his teaching.

Immediately, however, a man demonized by an unclean spirit cries out, Jesus rebukes the demon, telling him to be silent. This is what the kingdom of God means.

This is what the rule of God is about, it is about vanquishing the rule of Satan, and thus about setting people free from demons and from the ungodly infirmities they inflict on people. (Luke 4:18-19)

What the kingdom of God means, therefore, is that the hostile alien kingdom of demonic captivity, oppression, poverty and blindness (physical and spiritual) is coming to an end through the ministry of Jesus. He is the bringer of the kingdom of God, for he is the vanquisher of the kingdom of Satan. (Matthew 4:23-24)

... 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment" (Mt 10:7-8). (Boyd, 186-190)

But it is hardly less puzzling that so many believing Christians today can read these same Gospels, while committing themselves to following the Lord, yet never seriously consider treating sickness and disease (to say nothing of demonized people) the way Jesus treated them. Far from considering such things as scourges of the devil, as Jesus did, we modern Christians are likely to attribute them to God's "mysterious providence." (Boyd, 191)

### **We have been given authority! – Luke 10:19**

**Expect a resistance to deliverance** – Matthew 12:22-30, Mark 3:20-27, Luke 11:14-23 "I call this raising of controversy, against those who commit themselves to evangelism, healing and deliverance, the Beelzebul Syndrome, because when the church hierarchy of Jesus's day, the Pharisees, heard that he had restored the eyesight and speech of a blind and dumb man through

deliverance, they raised a controversy to try and discredit the ministry of Jesus.” (Peter Horrobin – The Beelzebul Syndrome)

Note: In Mark’s account his family declared Jesus had gone mad. Jesus’ response was “who are my brothers...” “In saying this, Jesus was not saying that families don’t matter, but he was placing a light priority on obedience to God rather than subjection of a God-given ministry to the wishes of his family. And in the context of the scripture the priority was, in that instance, on the ministry of healing and deliverance. By implication, therefore, the people who are ministering in this way to those in need are truly mother, brother and sister to Jesus. Jesus then says “he who is not with me is against me.”

## **We are To Come In Compassion**

Toward the demonized, however, he never expressed anger; rather, he exhibited only compassion. As Langton notes, “Pity rather than anger characterizes the attitude of Jesus toward the possessed . . . He treats them as if they were the victims of an involuntary possession.” Indeed, he treats them as though they are casualties of war. For, in his view, this is precisely what they are.

. . . just as evil adults can and do sometimes victimize children against their will and God’s will, just as rapists victimize women against their will and against God’s will, and just as despotic political powers victimize their subjects against their will and against God’s will, so demonic spirits can apparently sometimes victimize people against their will and against God’s will.  
(Boyd, 199-200)

## **How to Struggle for Obedience**

NOTE; (Arnold) - "Protection from evil spirits was something of great concern to people living in the first century....For Paul, only the one true God provides us with protection....Although God provides us with protection, becoming a Christian does not mean that one gains an automatic immunity to the demonic realm. Believers need to learn about their position in Christ. This is precisely why the study of Scripture and theology is so important for Christian living...There is no nominal Christianity. Believers either resist the influence of the evil one who works through the flesh and the world, or they relinquish control of their lives to the powers of darkness."

**Renew allegiance to God- Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

**Reject False World View- Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

**Remove False Ways-** (Put away sinful practice)- **Acts 8:18-24** And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."  
20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." 24 Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."

**Rely on the Armor of God- Ephesians 6:10-17** 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,<sup>[c]</sup> against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 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.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

(Often the pieces of the armor are described as extravagant in nature, the very best.)-offensive weapons. PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT – Romans 13:12-14

**Belt of Truth-** Loins girded showed readiness for war. Lord Jesus (John 10:10) Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.), Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 2:10) but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

**Breastplate of Righteousness-** protects seat of emotions and feelings. It protects the front and back of the soldier. It gives us confidence and courage, repudiates self righteousness.

**Shoes of peace-** Shoes were very important to soldier. His very life depended on good shoes. Preparation is best translated firmness, solid foundation, solidly. **Romans 5:1** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **Philippians 4:6-7** 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Shield of Faith-** This shield was 2 1/2 feet wide by 4 1/2 feet high. The soldier who carried this was in the front lines. The Shield was an offensive weapon. Arrows were wrapped in pieces of cloth, soaked in pitch and lit on fire. Fiery missiles would be discouragement, doubt, temptations. **Psalms 5:12** For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. Psalm 91, I Peter 5:8-9 be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**Helmet of Salvation-** It protects the mind (I Corinthians 11:3). I Thessalonians 5:8. Promise of eternal salvation- Philippians 1:6.

**Sword of the Spirit-** Small sword-6"-18". Word here is not the general statement or message but individual words or particular statements (2 Timothy 2:15). It is an offensive weapon (**Hebrews 4:12-13** For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.). It is spiritual. (**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,)

**Practice doctrinal praying-** II Corinthians 10:4-6, Ephesians 6:18

**Resist Satan- I Peter 5:9** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings, James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**James 4:7-8** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**Respond to Godly Counsel- Proverbs 12:15** The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

**Be Filled With the Holy Spirit-** Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

**Thank God For Your Warfare-** Job

**Affirm Gods Greatness and Goodness-** Ephesians 5:19,20 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Be A Part of the Body of Believers-** Ephesians 5:19

**Forgive-** Ephesians 4:26-27 26“Be angry, and do not sin”:<sup>[1]</sup> do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

**Appropriate the blood of Jesus- Romans 5:9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

## **DEMONIZATION OF CHRISTIANS – IS IT POSSIBLE?**

**Demon Possession and the Christian:**The Greek verb daimonizomai means "to be possessed by a demon"(William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament). The participle from the same root, daimonizomenos, is used twelve times in the Greek New Testament. It is used only in the present tense, indicating the

continued state of one inhabited by a demon, or demonized. This participle has components to its structure. First there is the root, *daimon*, which indicates the involvement of demons. Second is the causative stem, *iz*, which shows that there is an active cause in this verb. Third is the passive ending, *omenos*. This conveys the passivity of the person described as demonized. Putting it all together, the participle in its root form means "a demon caused passivity. This indicates a control other than that of the person who is demonized; he is regarded as the recipient of the demon's action. In other words, demonization pictures a demon controlling a somewhat passive person."

Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament: *daimonizomai*-be possessed by a demon occurs thirteen times in the New Testament, exclusively in the Gospels (Seven Times in Matthew, four times in Mark, and once each in Luke and John). It designates a condition of sickness that is explained by a demon dwelling in the person (possession). p. 274.

Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary (1965) possession 1. The act of having or taking into control.  
b. control or occupancy of property without regard to ownership. (p. 662)

Following material taken from Three Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare by Clinton Arnold.

Were did English Bible translators get the idea of translating *daimonizomai* as "demon possession"? The translation was most likely influenced by the Latin church's tradition of using the term *possessio* to describe a person deeply troubled by a demonic spirit. Interestingly, the Latin Vulgate, however, does not use the term *possessio* to translate *daimonizomai*, but the simple expression *to have a demon* (*habeo with daemonia*). But it is also important to realize that the English term *possess* has a long history of usage where the emphasis could fall on control or occupancy as opposed to ownership. This is significant because it is by no means certain that the translators of the King James Version intended to convey the notion of ownership by using the term *possession*.

The obstacle for us is that in popular contemporary usage we have a difficult time disentangling possession from the concept of ownership. To avoid this confusion, some Christian leaders have suggested that we begin transliterating the term *daimonizomai* by the expression *demonized*. This has the advantage of providing us with a new term to use without the baggage that comes with "demon possession." It might

also be advisable to use other common translations of *daimonizomai* that we noted earlier.

I am convinced that there would be far greater agreement among Christians on this issue if we framed the question differently, leaving out the word *possession*. We might ask, “Can Christians come under a high degree of influence by a demonic spirit?” or, “Is it possible for Christians to yield control of their bodies to a demonic spirit in the same way that they yield to the power of sin?”

## **Evidence Against Demonization of Christians- A Response**

**John 12:31, 16:11** Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

**Response to John 12:31** Refers to the legal judgment of Satan, not to his detainment in the abyss. Even after Christ made these startling declarations Satan very seriously affected Peter, leading him to deny the Savior (Luke 22:31-32).

**Revelation 20:1-3** – 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

**Response to Revelation 20:1-3** The binding of Satan occurs at the second coming. Also Satan is now seen as active along with his demons at the present time (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

**Hebrews 2:14-15** 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

**Response to Hebrews 2:14-15**—The Greek word *katargeo* does not mean to destroy or reduce to no power. It rather means to make ineffective, nullify, set aside, doomed to perish. The same word is used in the judgment of our old man in Romans 6:6. Few would argue that our sin nature has not the possibility of controlling our lives. Demonic

forces have been judged by the cross and have been rendered inoperative in having the rule over death and the bondage that result from fear of death. Satan's dominion of believers through fear has been broken.

**Colossians 2:14-15** <sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

**Response to Colossians 2:14-15**- If Christ has so routed and stripped the enemy of weapons, how could the Christian ever expect the enemy to attack let alone invade a believer's body? This is a positional legal victory over Satan and demons. Paul did not intend to convey that we need not stand guard against them or that they could not seriously affect our lives as Christians. It is one thing to have a perfect legal standing before God through being "in Christ"; it is quite another to walk in obedience to the Word and to keep one's self from being led astray through demonic deception.

**Colossians 1:13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

**Response to Colossians 1:13**-This is to be understood positionally and in a legal sense. We are no longer citizens of the kingdom of Satan. We have been redeemed and forgiven of sins; redemption and forgiveness are legal possessions of those in Christ. We are now citizens of the Son's kingdom. However, we are in a battle (Col 2:1).

**Acts 26:18** to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

**Response to Acts 26:18**-This is positional truth, but the practical walk and battle continue.

**John 10:22-29** <sup>22</sup> Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. <sup>24</sup> Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. <sup>26</sup> But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>27</sup> My

sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

**Response to John 10:22-29**-This is true! This passage does not deal with demonic attack or invasion.

**John 17:15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

**Response to John 17:15**-Christ is praying for Christians preservation from becoming completely engulfed in Satan's destructive power and devastation.

**Matthew 6:13** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Response to Matthew 6:13**-What happens if the believer does not ask to be delivered from evil. The meaning seems to be "Do not allow us to fall into such temptation that would lead to ensnaring by Satan."

**2 Thessalonians 3:3** But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one.

**Response to 2 Thessalonians 3:3**-Paul knew the attack of Satan in his ministry and in his body (2 Cor 12:7, I Thess 2:18). He warns all Christians to put on the whole armor of God so that they might be able to stand against demonic wiles (Eph 6:10-12). It is to be expected that those who do not stand in the power of the Lord and the armor of God will not be able to stand in the battle. This promise is for those who walk in obedience to the Lord. Satan will not be able to take them unaware and render them weak, unfaithful, and unproductive in Christian life and service.

**2 Timothy 2:25-26-25** in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, **26** and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

**Response to 2 Timothy 2:25-26**-In another passage, Paul advises Timothy on how to minister effectively to a believer whom Satan has "taken captive": "Those who oppose him [the Lord's servant] he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will" (2 Tim. 2:25-26).

Paul continues to be concerned about false teachers in the midst of the churches. He is not speaking of wolves among the sheep, but of sheep who have been led astray and threaten to lead others astray. Since Paul advises Timothy on how to minister in a way that effects restoration, these opponents are Christians who have fallen off the rails. They have become ensnared in a trap (*pagis*) set by the devil, and the result is quite severe— they are now captives of Satan. George Knight aptly comments that the phrase *being captured alive* (*ezogremenoi*) “conveys the sense of ‘having been taken and held captive’ and expresses the decisive hold that the devil has.”

It is quite possible that these false teachers were Christians who had never made a clean break with their occultic past and were continuing to be involved in magical practices. Paul compares their opposition to what Moses experienced when he faced Jannes and Jambres, the Egyptian sorcerers (2 Tim. 3:7-8; cf. Exod. 7:11-12,22).

**I John 4:4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

**Response to I John 4:4**—John is warning against possible deception promoted by false teachers influenced by a spirit or spirits not from God. God's Spirit will enable the discerning and obedient believer so that he will not be taken in by false teaching. The issue of demonization is not addressed in this verse.

**I John 5:18** We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself,<sup>a</sup> and the wicked one does not touch him.

**Response to I John 5:18**—The sin here is not a particular sin but "habitually sinning." The believer does not habitually practice sin, he guards himself so that Satan does not grasp hold of him. If habitual sin is practiced the door is open for attack.

**Psalms 5:4** For You *are* not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You.

**Response to Psalm 5:4**—Verse must be taken in context. The parallel is God does not dwell with evil. Presence and fellowship are different. Evil cannot have fellowship with God, but God can call evil into His presence (Job 1:6, 2:1).

**I Corinthians 10:21** You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

**Response to I Corinthians 10:21**-If these people sat at tables of an idolatrous feast and partook of the food dedicated to idols, they would be fellowshiping with demons. This partaking means to participate, to have a part in. This unfitting combination does not rule out the possibility that some may try to partake of both tables. Instead of excluding the presence of demons from believers, the passage is a stern warning about the possible sin of fellowshiping with demons by participating in idolatrous actions.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-16** **14** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? **15** And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? **16** And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you<sup>a</sup> are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “*I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.*”

**Response to II Corinthians 6:14-16**- This shows that it is possible to have fellowship with unbelievers, even to participate in the works of Satan. Partnership meaning a sharing or participating.

**CONCLUSION:**We may definitely say that the believer who heeds the warnings and obeys the Scripture and walks in fellowship with Christ cannot be freshly invaded. "In vain do we search for a Scripture that grants Christians full immunity from the attacks or invasions of Satan. All of us know too well the external attack of Satan...There is not one statement of Scripture to indicate that Christians are incapable of being harassed or even invaded by evil spirits if they give ground to these evil spirits."(Ensign and Howe-Bothered?Bewildered?Bewitched?Your Guide to Practical, Supernatural Healing).

## **Evidence Supporting Demonization of Christians- A Response**

**II Corinthians 4:3-4** **3** But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

**Response to II Corinthians 4:3-4**-No clear evidence of demonization of the unbeliever or believer.

**I Thessalonians 2:18** Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

**Response to I Thessalonians 2:18**- Passage says nothing of demonization in any clear sense.

**I John 4:1-4** **1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, **3** and every spirit that does not confess that<sup>a</sup> Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. **4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

**Response to I John 4:1-4** -Does not present any sure evidence that believers can be inhabited by demons.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because<sup>a</sup> your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**Response to 1 Peter 5:8**-The apostle Peter warns believers in Asia Minor to be strong in their faith because of the real possibility that they could be “devoured” (*katapino*) by the devil. Peter compares Satan to a lion who paces back and forth and creates fear through his awful roar.

This passage clearly has believers in view and, at the minimum, envisions the potential for Satan to have extensive and dominating control over the life of a Christian. The term for devouring (*katapino*) was commonly used for wild animals that tore apart their prey and swallowed all that was edible – a term quite appropriate for the hungry lion. Because of the context of intense, localized persecution of Christians, J. Ramsey Michaels thinks that the imagery of the passage point to Satan working in the hearts of believers in such a way that they renounce their allegiance to Christ. The fear and dread Satan creates by his roar – perhaps signifying the threats to family members, friends, and acquaintances by the persecutors – was one of the principal means he used to carry out his designs.

In this verse, the devouring does not suggest demonic control in the sense of dramatic manifestations of demonization, but it does convey the idea of near-total dominance.

**Response to II Peter 2:1-22**-“Christians stand in real danger of being tempted, attacked, and even controlled by evil spirits if they are not careful to be fully protected by the whole armor of God and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ensign and Howe). No clear evidence of the demonization of genuine believers.

**Colossians 2:8** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

**Response to Colossians 2:8** - Paul's motive for writing his letter to the Colossians was to prevent these believers from falling captive to a demonically inspired teaching. He warns them, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ" (Col. 2:8 NRSV).

Once again he sees Satan operating powerfully through inspiring a teaching that would keep believers away from the Lord Jesus Christ. On the surface, it would appear that the teaching of the faction in the church at Colossae could be explained strictly on a human level (it "depends on human tradition"), but ultimately it can be traced to demonic powers, which Paul here calls *stoicheio tou kosmou*.

Paul's anxiety over the danger to the church is expressed by his choice of the rare term *sulagogeo*, "to take as plunder" or "to take as captives." Paul sees the possibility that these Christians could be victimized by Satan through this factional teaching in a way that once again brings them under satanic bondage.

The group within the church advocating this variant theology and practice certainly would not have seen themselves as demonized or even demonically influenced. They thought they were living on a very high level of spiritual existence and experience. Paul sees things quite differently, however. He describes their teaching as deceitful (Col. 2:8) and insists that they are not walking in a close relationship with Christ (Col. 2:19).

The deluded Christians purveying this teaching did display many facets of overt demonic influence. They sought contact with spirit-beings, visions played a significant role in their experience, they may have engaged in ritual forms of initiation (modeled after the local mystery religions) (Col. 2:18), and their mode of worship may have bordered on the "ecstatic" (Col. 2:23).

Paul unmasks their deviant beliefs and practices as inspired by demonic spirits. They were already captives and threatened to lead others astray.

**I Corinthians 2:11** For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

**Response to I Corinthians 2:11.** No conclusive evidence of demonization. Unger states that receiving another spirit does speak of demonization of Christians.

**I Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

**Response to I Timothy 4:1-** It is unclear if teachers are Christian or not and as to whether the demons involved are outside or inside the false teachers.

**Response to Ephesians 6:10-18-** No definite evidence as to the location of the demons themselves.

**Ephesians 4:26-27** <sup>26</sup> “Be angry, and do not sin”:do not let the sun go down on your wrath, <sup>27</sup> nor give place to the devil.

**Response to Ephesians 4:26-27.** Paul does not state how or where the demonic forces operate.

**I Timothy 3:6-7** <sup>6</sup> not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**Response to I Timothy 3:6-7-** Passage does not support the concept that believers may be inhabited by demons.

**I Peter 5:6-8** <sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**Response to I Peter 5:6-8-** No evidence as to the possible demonization of a believer.

**II Timothy 2:26** and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

**Response to II Timothy 2:26-** No evidence that a believer can be demonized.

**Response to Genesis 31:19,34-35-** Was attack external or internal?

**Response to Numbers 22-24-** No evidence as to whether demons can invade a believer.

**Matthew 8:16** When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,

**Response to Matthew 8:16-** Were only unbelievers brought to Jesus? Cannot assume either way. No hard evidence for demonization of believers here.

**Acts 5:1-3** **1** But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. **2** And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware *of it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?"

**Response to Acts 5:1-3-** Dickason-The most it could mean is that inhabiting demons controlled them as they gave themselves to the scheme, to seek to deceive men and God, but the data does not guarantee what exactly took place. Unger writes: "Satan filled their hearts to lie to the Holy Spirit. The same word used of the believer who is filled with the Spirit (pleroo) is employed here of Ananias, whom the powers of darkness filled." (Eph. 5:18)

**Response to Acts 8:9-24-** The evidence is inconclusive but the possibility exists that he was still demonized.

**Response to I Corinthians 5:1-13-** No evidence of demonization of a genuine believer.

**II Corinthians 11:3-4** **3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity<sup>a</sup> that is in Christ. **4** For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

**Response to II Corinthians 11:3-4-** Paul is speaking of the possibility of receiving a demon to inhabit, but the evidence does not support that conclusion without doubt.

**II Corinthians 12:7-8** **7** And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. **8** Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

**Response to II Corinthians 12:7-8-** May indicate demonization but not clear.

**Response to King Saul-** Saul was a believer (I Sam 10:6-12) received Samuel's and God's approval (12:17-18). Saul was invaded by a wicked spirit that controlled his behavior (16:14, 16:18-23, I Sam 18:10-11, I Sam 19:9-10). To God, rebellion is the same as the sin of witchcraft or divination (I Sam 15:23).

**Response to Luke 13:10-17-** Woman bent double. She was a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had bound for eighteen years. The phrase daughter of Abraham can mean she was a believer. (Compare with Luke 19:9)

**Response to King Ahab and Jehoshaphat-** when they proposed to fight the Syrians, inquired of the Lord by gathering 400 prophets (I Kings 22:6). It is hard to imagine that Micaiah was the only true believer in the Lord among this large company, because they all inquired of the Lord, not Baal. Yet all except Micaiah yielding to pressure from wicked Ahab, received the spirit of deception and came under demonic control. (I Kings 22:19-22, cf. I John 4:1)

**Luke 8:2** and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,

**Response to Luke 8:2- Mary Magdalene** was healed when seven demons went out of her, possibly after she had been a believer for some time. (Luke 8:2).

**Conclusion:** Most of these cases cannot be considered valid evidence for demonization. However, there are some passages that present evidence that cannot be lightly dismissed but must be considered as fairly strong evidence, such as the daughter of Abraham with a spirit of illness.

**The Holy Spirit** is received to reside in the body. Likewise, a spirit "not of God" may be allowed to invade the body. (I John 4:3)

**Hymenaeus and Alexander** were delivered over to Satan. There is every intimation that these two believers came under severe demonic control and bondage. Opening their lives to Satan, the powers of darkness entered. (I Tim 1:19-20)

**Genesis 4:7-** The Hebrew "crouching" is better translated demon...therefore "a demon at the door."

## **Theological Considerations Against the Demonization of Believers**

**Spatial considerations**-There is no room for the Holy Spirit and demons to inhabit the same body. Spatial considerations such as dimensional limitations do not apply to the spirit world.

**How can you be possessed by Christ, and demon possessed?**  
Demonization does not mean owned but demonized or under the control of.

**Moral Presence consideration.** God cannot dwell with evil. God dwells in every believer, therefore a demon cannot dwell in any believer. The Holy Spirit lives in the believer where there is still a sinful, evil sin nature. Also the real issue is presence and not control. The demon can invade and be a trespasser.

**The Bible contains declarations that suggest the possibility that demons can invade and control a Christian.** Paul testified that he was "not ignorant of his (Satan's) devices, lest Satan should be at an advantage." (2 Corinthians 2:11) Satan seeks to gain a favorable and strategic place in the life of the believer to do him harm (Ephesians 6:11, 2 Thessalonians 2:9). Unless we acquaint ourselves with his wiles and subtle strategy, we are bound to fall under his attacks. Paul says "neither give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27). This is a warning against yielding ground or giving foothold to the devil. Also "resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7)." The satanic principle is to take as much ground as possible when not resisted.

**I Peter 5:8** –Be sober, be vigilant; because<sup>a</sup> your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

The figure is of the devil tearing his victim apart limb by limb and consuming him. Certainly this conveys the idea that the powers of darkness are able to make a very serious encroachment upon the life of a child of God. In fact, they go so far as to kill the body (Matt 10:28). How dare a believer ignore this warning or naively tone down its terrifying implications?

### **SOME COMMENTS:**

Lewis Sperry Chafer Systematic Theology, 3:273.-"Grievously sinning saints may go beyond the old nature. In cases of serious, persistent, scandalous sin, such as gross immorality or participation in occultism or occult religious, demons may exercise control over the believer for a

time until his sin is confessed and forsaken and deliverance from the evil powers is gained."

Unger-"In an age of increasing moral laxity and spiritual lawlessness, the more serious forms of demonic influence are becoming more prevalent among Christian people"

Unger-"The demon enters, it is true, as a squatter and not as an owner or a guest or as one who has a right there. He comes in as an intruder and as an invader and enemy...Satan and his minions have no legal right to enter, for the Christian's body belongs only to God both by creation and redemption. But as a squatter, defined as 'one who settles on land without right or title or payment of rent' a demon can come in and settle down for a time. He will leave only if he is forcibly ejected by faith and prayer on the part of Christian warriors who know their position and resources in Christ and use their prayer armor effectively."

Unger-"Those who maintain, however, that no believer can be invaded by Satan or demonic powers run into a serious problem. In every case of clear-cut demon invasion they must assume that the person in question is unsaved. But the fact remains that numbers of Christians are experiencing vexing problems and grave hangups that manifestly go beyond natural infirmities or the struggle between the Spirit and the flesh."

Unger-"The testimonies of numbers of Christian counselors dovetail. They have worked with scores of people who joyously confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior but who were unquestionably invaded by one or more demons. In each case, the unmistakable indication of the demon's presence was discernible. There was the speaking out through the affected individual of another person who denied the lordship of Christ and gave allegiance to Satan."

Unger-"The truth of the matter is that the Scriptures nowhere plainly state that a true believer cannot be invaded by Satan or his demons. Of course, doctrine must always have precedence over experience. Nor can experience ever furnish a basis for biblical interpretations. Yet, if consistent experiences clash with an interpretation, the only inference possible is that there is something wrong with either the experience or the interpretation of the Scripture that runs counter to it. Certainly the inspired Word of God never contradicts valid experience."

Unger-A Christian psychiatrist, Dr. Marion Nelson, declares that those who hold that a demonic spirit cannot invade the same body as the Holy Spirit must bear the burden of proving that it cannot happen, using Scriptures properly interpreted and applied. This is difficult in

the face of numerous reports of people who seem to be real Christians and who apparently suffer from demonic possession."

Unger-"Dare we be so naive as to believe that demonic powers will not press their claims to the limit in any life? How much more in the case of the child of God failing to count on what he is in Christ, neglecting to use his resources in warfare, and above all, opening the door to the enemy by serious and persistent sin. Does the believer dare to presume that he will not be attacked, defeated, oppressed, or even invaded by the enemy."

Unger-"To deny the possibility of demonic working in the lives of Christians is to fail to allow Scripture to speak in the full scope of its implications, and to flatly ignore experience. To fail to grasp the full extent to which such sinister power may operate is perilous, for it DENIES TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVADED BY THE ENEMY THE UNDERSTANDING AND HELP THEY SO DESPERATELY NEED....Those who deny the possibility of a demon invading a believer run the risk of believing the devil's lie that he will not enter if permitted, or they assume that the believer loses his moral choice in the matter and cannot open the door to demonic powers."

Unger-"Certainly Satan would like us to underestimate what he can do and how far he can go. How delighted he is to have us theorize in a theological dream world that does not face the relevant Scriptures fully and fairly nor come to grips with the facts of experience realistically. How gleeful he must feel if he can cast the halo of supposed orthodoxy over the whole procedure. He would like us to live in a fool's paradise so that we will be unable to sound a full warning to the perils of the occult contamination and other willful sins, as well as the demonic bondage that follows."

Wagner (Third Wave of the Holy Spirit)-"I now feel certain that the power of evil spirits is real and can have direct influence in the life of a Christian.....almost all those who themselves are actively involved in a ministry of exorcism or deliverance affirm that Christians can be demonized. Those who deny it, by and large, have had little or no direct contact with the demonic." Charles Swindoll, author of a number of Christian best sellers and former pastor of First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton, California, has changed his opinion. In a booklet entitled Demonization he writes "For a number of years I questioned this, but I am now convinced it can occur. Wicked forces are not discriminating with regard to which body they may inhabit." Swindoll asserts that through the years he has worked with troubled, anguished Christians. And "on a few occasions I have assisted in the painful process of relieving them of demons."...Southern Baptist evangelist

James Robison says there was a time when he did not believe that Christians needed deliverance from demonic oppression. Through a ministry of a friend he was delivered from what he perceived to be a demonic claw, and from that moment he was a free man...Edward Murphy, missionary to Latin American, former professor at Biola University and now vice-president of Overseas Crusades writes. "It used to be thought, and I made this assumption just like everyone else, that the moment the Holy Spirit entered a new Christian's life, the evil spirits, if there were any there, were automatically expelled." His missionary experience, however, forced him to change his mind. "I have found," says Murphy "that people can come to Christ in a genuine salvation experience and still have problems in the demonic realm."

Demon Possession and the Christian – Fred Dickason

**Isaiah 61:1-4**

1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me,  
Because the LORD has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;  
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,  
And the day of vengeance of our God;  
To comfort all who mourn,  
3 To console those who mourn in Zion,  
To give them beauty for ashes,  
The oil of joy for mourning,  
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
That they may be called trees of righteousness,  
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."  
4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins,  
They shall raise up the former desolations,  
And they shall repair the ruined cities,  
The desolations of many generations.