

Resist the Devil and He Will Flee from Him

In the last Brief we saw that lawless behavior not only harms the perpetrator; it also causes collateral damage to others. In this Brief, we will see the consequences of lawlessness on a grander scale. There is a simple equation that will help depict this; *“as lawlessness increases exponentially, more power is transferred to our primary enemy, who is Satan”*. We see this power transfer mentioned *“figuratively”* in the following section of scripture,

And the ten horns, which you (John) saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast (representing Satan’s system of governance).¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb (symbol of Christ), and the Lamb will overcome them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with him are called, chosen, and faithful (Revelation 17:12-14; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The ten kings represent ten governing systems that have become progressively more and more corrupt; until the point they are completely



Give Their Power and Authority to The Beast

Then I (John) saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war (Revelation 19:11; Ed. note in parenthesis).

He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God (Christ).¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses.¹⁵ Now out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (the Father) (Revelation 19:13-15; cf. Isa. 13:2-13; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So how do we *“not transfer”* more power to Satan on an individual basis?

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.⁸ Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands (repent of sin), you sinners; and purify your hearts (change your attitude), you double-minded (James 4:7-8; Ed. notes in parentheses).

We saw previously that neither Cain or Judas Iscariot submitted to God’s will. Instead, they were too focused on their own desires and objectives, which led to their ruin. However, those who submit to God’s will, are promised protection when Satan attempts to harm them,

And I (Christ) also say to you that you are Peter (Gr. petros; a stone), and on this rock (Gr. petra; rock; Christ cf. Ps.

aligned with Satan's values. At this point, it is easy for Satan to absorb them, and use them in his attempt to thwart Christ's return to rule this planet. Thankfully, Christ is victorious in battle and Satan's forces are defeated,

18:2) *I will build my church, and the gates of Hades* (the grave; death) *shall not prevail (be victorious) against it* (Matthew 16:18; Ed. notes in parentheses).

He (God) *shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge...* (Psalm 91:4a; cf. Matthew 23:37).

In the next Brief, we will review Satan's fate following his attempt to defeat Christ, which is described in the 19th and 20th chapters of the book of Revelation.
