

Jesus Christ and the More Abundant Life

August 4, 2024

In John 10:10, we see how Jesus Christ set forth his agenda, which was God's agenda, and we also see what the Adversary's agenda is as well.

John 10:10: 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.

This is very clear, and very plain to understand. "The thief" is referring to Satan, the Serpent, the Devil, Beelzebub. The Adversary's **MO** (Modis Operendi), his agenda, his plan is three-fold. 1. Steal. 2. Kill. 3. Destroy. This agenda doesn't just refer to what he wants to do to believers, but unbelievers as well. Stealing is straight forward. It is what thieves do. They take things which do not belong to them. He can steal your thoughts, your believing. He can steal, for example, a believer's health. Health is something that belongs to believers. Because Jesus Christ bought and paid for our health by sacrificing himself for it. Satan has no claim to us. *He must go!*

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Shortly after Jesus was arrested, he was taken by the Roman soldiers to do whatever they wanted to do with him. After all, Jesus was not a Roman citizen, so there would be no repercussions for beating him, or any other vile acts to him. So, Jesus allowed them to torture him; they spit on him, they slapped him, they mocked him, they beat him some more. In fact this process continued for about 36 straight hours. Can you imagine such torture, misery and pain? The Old Testament prophecies predicted how badly he was to be beaten and tortured.

Isaiah 52:14 (KJV) As many were astonished [astonished] at thee; his visage was so marred [disfigured] more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.

The Contemporary English Version translates more effectively. (CEV) Verse 14: "Many were horrified at what happened to him. But everyone who saw him was even more horrified because he suffered until he no longer looked human."

That is a horrible of torture. He was so beaten that he was no longer recognizable as a human being. Like a slab of raw meat. Why did he let himself go through this? Because Jesus Christ **loved us**. He gave up his health so that we could have health. He gave up his life so that we could have life. Satan had a gleeful time doing this to Jesus, so he was going to take full advantage of this opportunity. As stated, part of the Devil's MO is stealing. Remember what Satan stole from Job?! Job lost everything... his wealth, his health, his family everything! But Job stayed faithful to God, and trusted God.

Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Stealing seems to be evil at it's best. But maybe not. Maybe there is more that the Devil can do that would be worse than a physical torture, or from stealing all that you have.

"To kill," from John 10:10 is also listed.

Luke 12:4: And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body [murder you], and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

The word “fear” here is the Greek word *phobēthetē*, in Hebrew= *yâré*. This word is interesting when you take a close look at it in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 1:29: Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid [*yâré*] of them. 30 The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes.

Psalms 27:1: The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear [*yâré*]? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Jeremiah 1:8 Be not afraid [*yâré*] of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

This verse in Jeremiah is very enlightening for it teaches plainly that we are not to be “afraid [*yâré*] of their faces,” meaning their rank, station, or position.

God has our back covered. He watches over our lives and He will protect us. Does that mean that we won't ever get sick, or die ever? No. If the lord tarries, we will fall asleep in Christ.

The word “power” in Luke 12:5, is the Greek word *exousia*, meaning “authority” or “delegated power.” Adam had been given the rulership, authority, power, dominion overall of God's creation, according to Genesis 2:28. In Luke 12:5, after the fall of man, *exousia* (power, authority, dominion) belongs to Satan. The original rulership that Adam had was delivered to the Adversary by Adam's disobedience according to **Luke 4:6:** “*And the devil said unto him [Jesus], All this power [*exousia*] will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.*” And as II Corinthians 4:4, Satan is now called “the god of this world [age].”

Without the ability to give dominion, Satan would have been bluffing Jesus Christ in this temptation. But Jesus knew he wasn't bluffing. He knew that Satan **did** have dominion over all the earth, otherwise Jesus would have called his bluff. Jesus simply rebuked the Devil. “Get thee behind me, Satan!” in Vs 8. It wasn't until Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption and salvation by his life, death and resurrection that the believers now have dominion over the Devil and his activities. We now reign in this new life. But we must know this and believe this! We must act according to the God-given rights that Christ obtained for us!

Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

To reign means to rule, to have dominion. We can only have this dominion because of what Jesus Christ accomplished by his life, death and resurrection from the dead. Humans cannot do more to other human beings than to kill life. However, Satan cannot only kill a life, he can also destroy a life also. The Devil's MO as we read in John 10:10 was to “steal, kill and destroy.” More about “destroy” in a moment.

To kill the body is almost the worst that Satan can do to an individual. We thought that the physical beatings that Jesus Christ endured were horrendous... and they were, but what about the ultimate that Satan can do to a human being. What about destroying a life?

The world makes death a big deal. It lauds the fact that death is the ultimate *coup de grâce* to any human being. Just as Jesus Christ was beaten and then suffered death. It would appear that death is the ultimate that Satan can do to people. *Not so fast!* There's more, and this is so much worse than stealing health, wealth or anything else. It worse than killing another human being, and that is **destroying** a life. But what does that mean?

Hebrews 2:14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Since Satan has this power of death, he endeavors to so arrange life in the here-and-now for humans that at death, a human being is still unsaved and consequently will ultimately end with no future glory. He endeavors to steal and kill, but if he can keep a person from obtaining eternal life by the new birth, then he can destroy that human. No eternity. If he dies without being born again, he will be raised in the resurrection of the unjust, but afterward, he dies the second death.

Luke 12:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell [Geenna]; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

geenna = Gehenna, referring to the valley of Hinnom just south of Jerusalem, where the trash, dead animals, and other undesirables were burned. It is used in the Scriptures by comparison to a site for the future destruction of undesirables. What are undesirables? This word is used in the NT in the Gospels, and the ONLY place otherwise is noted is in James 3:6.

James 3:6: And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell [gehenna].

Gehenna is where the fire “never” ceases. It’s the city dump. But it was originally the location where humans were sacrificed to the god Moloch. And like any fire anywhere, fire needs fuel to burn. If there is no more fuel, then there is no more fire. The figure of speech used in this context is *hyperbōlē*. It emphasizes complete destruction until it’s all gone. The unbelievers will be resurrected from the dead, as will the believers who lived before the time of Christ. This is the resurrection of the just and the resurrection of the unjust. At that time, God will judge. Those who refused to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will die a second death, along with the Devil himself who will be humiliated and destroyed.

Isaiah 14:15 Yet thou [Satan] shalt be brought down to hell [she'ôl = grave or pit] to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look [or peep] upon thee, and consider thee, saying, /s this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? [Complete shame]

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

In this context, those of Israel and those who believed God from the Old Testament, will live in eternity with God, and with us. It is after the resurrection of the just that they (of Israel) will reign on this earth 1000 years with Christ as priests of God and Christ. Satan is also bound 1000 years, meaning that he is not free to do anything. Then ultimately, Satan and his hosts will be destroyed. God’s major plan is unchangeable. God does exceeding, abundantly above all that we could ask or think!

And as it is stated here in verse 6, “...**the second death hath no power.**” At the end of all time, the last enemy that is destroyed is death, as stated in I Corinthians 15:26. God will end all death, all negatives, all suffering... it is ultimately destroyed along with the Adversary. Eternal death. By this time, those who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and believed that God raised him from the dead will have been gathered together. Although Satan was on this earth to steal, kill and destroy, his time will end, and God has the last laugh so to speak. All of Satan’s abilities will be gone, and he will be gone as well! Our lives in eternity will be fully manifested. New bodies, new abilities, new outcomes! No more sickness. No more death. No more pain and suffering.

1Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 54 So when this

corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written **Isaiah 25:8**, “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

Isaiah 25:8: He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke [insults from everywhere] of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

As we discussed previously in this fellowship, there are two parts to Christ's second coming. The first part of his second coming is when he comes **FOR** his saints (gathering together), and the second part is when he comes **WITH** him saints. When he comes FOR his saints, he will gather us together unto him, so shall we meet him in the air. We are changed, then we rise together unto him in the clouds; heaven.

The second part of his second coming is when he comes back TO THE EARTH with his holy ones. This is referred to in the Greek as **apokalupsis**, which is his “appearing,” “revelation,” “the advent,” and “the day of the Lord.” This period includes the period of God's judgements. The Church of the Body will never have to endure this experience for they shall already have been gathered together, and we will appear before the judgement seat [*bēma*] of Christ, to receive rewards for things done in this life. It is not to receive God's sentences of wrath of condemnation, but to “have praise of God.” Like the ancient Olympic (and modern) games, the winners stand on the **bema** to receive their medals, their rewards. That is what this “judgement seat of Christ” really is!

1Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels [deliberations] of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

As we previously discussed in this fellowship, Christ's second coming has two parts. The first part is when he comes **for** his saints, and the second part is when he comes **with** his saints. In the first part, Christ will gather us together unto him in the clouds, and we will meet him in the air; in the heavens. We will be changed and rise together with him into the heavens, “**and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**”

People have everything to gain and nothing to lose by accepting Christ right now. And everything to lose and nothing to gain by going along with the things of the world which Satan controls, and ends with death and eternal destruction. It is all by the free will decision of each man or woman.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

This is Jesus Christ and the More Abundant Life!