

The West Meadow
By Pastor Wes Higgins

“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” Revelation 12:12, NKJV.

A short time by Bible standards is not necessarily what we may consider short. (See 2 Peter 3:8) Jesus said that He “saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven” (Luke 10:18, NKJV). Revelation 12:7 describes a war in heaven in which Satan and his angels were cast to earth. So when was this? Probably before the creation of man, since that “serpent of old” was there in the garden to deceive Eve.

But the important part of Revelation 12:12 is that Satan has come down to the world with “great wrath”. Peter describes Satan as “a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8, NKJV). Again we see in Revelation 12 he is the deceiver of the whole world. Not just a few misguided people here and there, but the whole world. Jesus tells us that Satan is a murderer and a liar, even calling him the “father of lies and murderer from the beginning”. (John 8:44)

As we look around the world today, it seems that Satan's influence is at an all time high. This is the age of abortion. Legalized first in Communist Russia in 1920, it has spread its ugliness through out the world – over 60 million in America alone. Add to that the debasement and total confusion of sexual immorality. Homosexuality and transgenderism rampant, not only allowed but approved, and in a growing number of nations encouraged. It brings to mind Paul's writings to the Romans, where he warns, “who, knowing the righteous judgment of God – that those who practice such things are deserving of death – not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” (Romans 1:32, NKJV)

So why has God allowed Satan's influence? God originally gave the world to him as his dominion and when he rebelled against God he was cast back down to earth (See Isaiah 14:12-17, Revelation 12:7-9) where he rules as “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2, NKJV). He will rule till the return of Jesus Christ. (Matthew chapter 4 shows Jesus Christ being confronted by Satan and overcoming him.)

So, as Christians, how do we battle Satan's influence? Paul tells us our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of darkness, spiritual host of wickedness (Ephesians 6:12). Peter tells us to be sober and vigilant (1 Peter 5:8). James tells us to “submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7, NKJV) Our first line of defense (our only line) against “the accuser of brethren” is to submit to God in every part of our life. Notice how the saints of Revelation overcome Satan. “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” (Revelation 12:11, NKJV) The Saints accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (the blood), they lived their lives (their testimony) according to the Word of God, and they do not worry about what man can do to them.