



NON-PROFIT



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TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

July 2023

## FROM US TO YOU

Many people are going through a hard time lately. So are we. It brings to mind what Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He **prunes** so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me” (John 15:1-4 NIV). We know that we are bearing good fruit because of the nice letters we have received from our readers. This is especially true of the letters we have received from people who have been released from prison and want to know how they can keep getting the newsletter because it helped them so much. These are difficult times. As for us, we are being super-pruned. Four out of five of our Board members are experiencing severe physical ailments, and we all need your prayers. It’s clear the devil doesn’t want us to get this newsletter out. In a way there’s a feeling of victory, knowing that for Satan and his team of demons to plan such vicious attacks again us, they must consider us a threat.

The Bible says, “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. And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast” (1 Peter 5:8-10 NIV). Our cat, Greta, died recently. We had her for seventeen and a half years. Eric buried her in our garden. It wasn’t easy because he has sciatica, a painful “trigger finger,” and arthritis. Since taking the immunization for COVID-19, Anne has developed some kind of mystery disease. It affects her spine, hip, knees, legs, and feet. She can barely walk. As nasty as Satan’s attacks can be, when your name is written down in God’s “...book of life...” (Revelation 20:12 NIV) the devil cannot hurt you unless he has permission from God. This is expounded upon in the first two chapters of Job. Jesus told Simon Peter, “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:31-32 NIV).

Christ suffered for us, and there are times when we are called on to suffer for Him. This is, still, currently Satan’s kingdom (see Ephesians 2:2-3). “Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world... But now My kingdom is from another place’” (John 18:36 NIV). However, when our short lifespan is over in this world, as Paul put it, “... ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him’—but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NIV). We can also relate to the words of Peter when he said, “Dear friends, do not be surprised

at the painful trial you are suffering, as though **something strange** were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed” (1 Peter 4:12-13 NIV).

You wouldn’t expect anything as innocuous as changing a light bulb would be dramatic. However, a few weeks ago Eric had to change a light bulb in our family room. He gave the bulb a little twist, and the whole thing exploded, glass shooting out throughout the room, a classic sign of demon activity! And a couple of days ago, as we write this, our house was quiet. It was almost two o’clock in the morning when suddenly we heard a thunderous noise coming from inside our house. For no apparent reason, the chandelier in our dining room came crashing down making a mess of glass and metal all over our wood table.

And then we have another type of attack. Recently, there have been emails sent saying that they are from Bible Believers Fellowship, Inc. (bbfi@prisonministry.org), but they are NOT from us. These emails do not have our logo and each of these spam emails say at the bottom – **If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you may unsubscribe by clicking here.** Do NOT click or tap on any links in these emails because they are coming from the Google storage cloud at <https://storage.googleapis.com/> Since we do not use Google cloud, these emails are undoubtedly spam, and most likely phishing attempts to get information from you or to spread malware on your devices.



- Greta -

While working on this newsletter last night, about 9:00 pm, Eric walked into Anne’s office to see how she was doing. We wondered what the weather was like outside. So Eric walked to the window to look out. Then he gasped. The window had a big crack in it. We have no idea how it got there. However, broken glass seems to be along the same theme as the exploding light bulb and the broken chandelier. We are beginning to get a slight inkling of what Job must have felt. So what are we going to do about it? Two things. We make repairs. Then, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV). And, as songwriter, Joseph Larson wrote in his song “Don’t Give Up On The Child Of God.” “Weep your tears for others. We don’t need your sorrow. We are held by a mighty hand, the hand that holds tomorrow. We have stood through every test, and every situation. We stand on His mighty word, a mighty firm foundation. You may wonder why we smile when we are sometimes in affliction. But you see we have more than human hands. For we know the great physician. The reason that we stood the test and over mountains soar. Over every circumstance you know Jesus Christ is Lord.” We are also facing a summer slump in donations. So your prayers for us and support will mean a lot.

In the Lord’s Service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*

# Satan's Subtle Schemes and Strategy

By Anne Kaestner

Every good lawyer knows that their best plan of defense against the opposition is to know their opponent's strategy. And every good general wants to know what the enemy's plan of attack will be. Likewise, as Christians, the best way for us to protect ourselves against our most evil attacker is to understand how he works. Jesus gave us some clues. He said of Satan, "...He was a **murderer** from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a **liar** and the father of lies" (John 8:44 NIV). So we know that Satan, the devil, is a murderer and a liar. Now, how does he spread his lies around? We are unable to actually see him physically, because he doesn't have a solid body. After their failed mutiny in Heaven (Revelation 12:7-9), Satan and the angels who fought with him, were put on trial. Part of their punishment was received right away. As they stood before Him, God cremated their physical bodies, reducing them to ashes (see Ezekiel 28:18). He also stripped them of any rights or position they had. Then He had them cast out of Heaven to the earth (Revelation 12:9). Of course, none of us were alive at the time. Mankind had not even been created yet.

Their ultimate punishment will happen after Christ comes back to earth (Revelation 19:11-16). It will be an eternity in Hell and the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10-15). For the fire and sulfur (brimstone) that God placed in the center of the earth (Deuteronomy 32:22, Ezek. 26:20, 32:24) was never created for mankind. It was "...prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41 NIV). When we see the exquisite beauty that once covered this planet, we get an inkling of how jealous Satan must have been when God formed Adam. For He gave him the authority over the earth that Satan had once controlled (see Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:13-15). However, Jesus told us that Satan does control this earth currently (Matthew 4:8-11, John 12:31). He is "...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2 KJV). So how did he get it away from Adam? Adam had one big vulnerability. His emotions! It's the same one all of us have. And it's the chief mechanism Satan uses to get us to sin against God!

You see, there was no way that God could give us emotions, and the capability to love Him, by our own choice, without giving us an eternal piece of Himself. It's the same way with the devil and demons. They will always exist somewhere. At the moment, some of them are here on earth tempting us humans. If God didn't allow this, we would have no ability to prove our love for Him by our refusal to give in to temptation (James 1:13-15). Satan and his demons want us to sin because they know that God loves us. They can't hurt God. Their mutiny didn't work. So they attack us instead. Therefore, Satan uses our emotions to trick us into sinning against the Lord.

To show you how deceptive Satan and his demons (fallen angels) are, one of their favorite lies is that humans can come back after death as ghosts and haunt people. Some individuals have engaged in occult practices, such as a séance. This is strictly forbidden in the Bible (Deuteronomy 18:10, Isaiah 47:13)! But those who have done so have sometimes claimed to have seen their loved one in a ghost-like form and spoken to them. But the Bible tells us that this is the only life we have on earth. Nevertheless, those who have been deceived at a séance have said that only their loved one could know what the ghost knew. So they are convinced that it must have been that person. Christians, "...man is destined to die **once**, and after that to

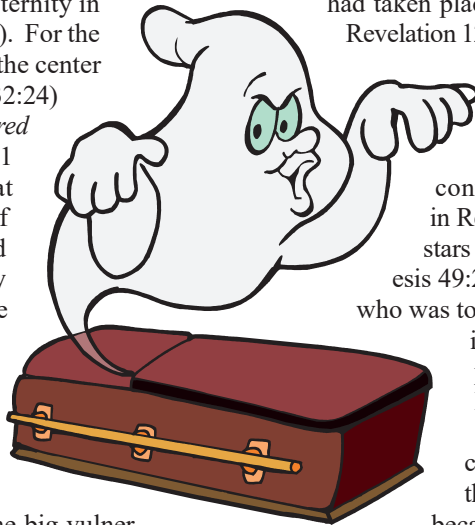
face judgment" (Hebrews 9:27 NIV). What they saw was a deceptive demon spirit **posing** as their loved one.

The demons have the ability to imitate the voice and appearance of any human. But they cannot do it in human form, unless they do it through "demon possession" (Mark 1:34, Acts 19:13-16). And if that is the case, they cannot appear and disappear at will. So their ghost or cloud-like apparition is the natural appearance of the demons since God destroyed their bodies. These demons know things that people think that only their loved one could possibly know. Because, although we can't see them, they are around us all the time, watching us and tempting us to sin! "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great **cloud** of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1 NIV).

The Bible tells us, metaphorically, that the devil's "...tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born" (Revelation 12:4 NIV). In other words, two thirds of God's angels (called stars – see Job 38:7) chose to remain faithful to Him. The remaining third had taken place in the mutiny and became fallen angels (see Revelation 12:9). Satan is also referred to as "the great dragon" in Revelation 12:9. God refers to him with several different names. Sometimes Satan does his evil by himself as in Job 1:8-20. But more often he manipulates humans under his control to do it for him. The "woman" mentioned in Revelation 12:1 is the nation of Israel. The twelve stars on her head are the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:28). Her pregnancy was with the coming Savior who was to be born God the Son, Jesus Christ. It's confusing to people because, in Revelation, the past, present, and future are all merged together (see Revelation 1:8, 21:6, 22:13).

Then, during the time leading up to, and including, the Tribulation, Satan will try to destroy the "woman," the nation of Israel. He will hate her because she was God's means by which He brought the Savior into this world. Israel will flee into the desert. But God will have prepared a place for her where she would be kept safe for 1,260 days (Revelation 12:6). However, the righteous church of Christ will not be around at that time. For those of us who are still alive at the time, will meet Christ in the air (1 Corinthians 15:51-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17). And that is when we will have resurrected bodies like Jesus had after He rose from the dead. It's referred to as the "Rapture" by the church. There are those who will remain on this earth because they were not ready when Christ came to collect His Bride (Matthew 25:1-13). They are like those mentioned as the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:14-20). Metaphorically, they didn't have enough oil in their lamps (Matthew 25:3). The oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and the lamps are the hearts of the people.

So now is the time to prepare for what is to come. God is still giving us a chance to get ready for Him. But many in the Laodicean church exist today, spiritually, in Western nations. And many, if not most of us, will probably die before the Rapture. Either way, a destiny of eternal joy, love, and peace awaits us in Heaven (1 Corinthians 2:9) or a future of hell and the Lake of Fire awaits those who reject Christ (Matthew 13:41-42). And it's not about how many good works you decide to do (Ephesians 2:8-9). It's about obeying God (Luke 6:46) and living for Christ. Because good works do not erase sin. Only Christ can do that! That's why Jesus said, "... I am the





way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6 NIV. Also, see 1 Timothy 2:5 NIV).

Satan wants to doom as many of us to the fires of hell as he can. That’s especially true today, “...because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that **his time is short**” (Revelation 12:12 NIV). That time period that God gave to Adam, to control the earth, is almost up. So, since Satan finagled that control away from Adam, his time of ruling this world system is almost at its end. Therefore, “*be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*” (1 Peter 5:8 NIV). How does he try to seduce us to sin (2 Corinthians 11:3-4), which leads to separation from God? Through temptation! And, to do this, he uses our greatest vulnerability against us, our emotions! For example, murders are committed through greed, anger, hatred, jealousy, or pride, all emotions! People tell lies out of fear (of being found out they did something wrong), or pride (like claiming credit for something they did not do). Emotions again! Satan and his demons try to manipulate us in so many more ways. For example, there’s the:

**(1) Blame God approach.** My mother used to like curly hair, even if it was frizzy. However, when I was about twelve years old, stick straight hair was in style. My mother didn’t care what my classmates thought or what was fashionable. And she used to make me go to school with frizzy hair. The other kids would make fun of me and say all kinds of mean things. As a result my seventh grade year was one of the two worst years in my life! But my mother would say “God gave you beautiful curly hair, and I’m not going to let you straighten it.” When I got into eighth grade I finally won the battle of the rollers. But the painful memories of that time are still with me today. It’s the same approach Adam took in the Garden of Eden. He was caught in sin so rather than take the blame himself he told God, “...The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat” (Genesis 3:12 KJV). The insinuation was that it was God’s fault, because He gave Adam the woman, and she tempted him. It’s the sin of pride, the “It’s not my fault” attitude. That doesn’t wash with God. Remember that “...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6 KJV).

**(2) Then there’s the false prophets and lukewarm Christians.** They make Christ look bad. Many Jewish people to this day hate Christ because the Nazis would call themselves Christians as they tortured and killed Jews. Over and over again Jesus and His Apostles warned about false prophets (see Matthew 7:15, 24:11, 24, Luke 6:26, 2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 4:1). And hypocrisy breeds false converts (Matthew 23:15), and very unchristian behavior, that Satan blames on Christ. It’s another version of the “blame God” excuse. And Satan will whisper in the ear of a person who doesn’t know Christ, “See that’s one of those phonies that call themselves Christian.”

**(3) Communication issues.** As I write this, an attack of this type, is still fresh in my mind. That’s when you will hear something different from what was really said. For example, I could hear my husband complaining about something this morning, and he sounded annoyed. “What’s the matter?” I asked. “My label is stuck in my printer,” he said. At first, I couldn’t hear him, so he had to repeat it. That added to his frustration. When it became clear what he had said, I asked, “What are you mailing?” “My label is stuck in my printer,” he said again. “I know. But who is the label going to?” I asked. “My label is stuck in my printer,” he replied. By now, I was getting frustrated as his voice became more impatient.

“But who are you addressing the label to?” I asked. “How many times do I have to tell you. My label is stuck in my printer.” By now both of us were on the verge of an argument. Finally, I said something like, “All I want to know is who are you sending the label to?” “Then why didn’t you say so?” he replied. “All I kept hearing was ‘what’s the matter?’” So what I said and what he was hearing were altered by invisible spiritual forces that wanted to cause an argument between us.

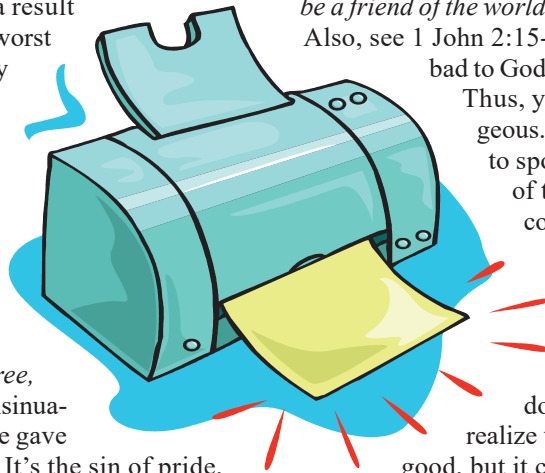
**(4) Seeing Something Different From What It Is.** That’s when you look at something, and it appears to be something else. It happens frequently to people, but they don’t realize it. They think they didn’t look at it correctly. For example, I went to the grocery store a while back, and Eric was helping me unpack the bags. We’re always on a tight budget, so we are very careful shoppers. Eric took out some cold cuts and said to me, “Why did you buy this ham for \$9.00 a pound? That’s expensive! Couldn’t you have bought something cheaper?” I looked at the ham again and was surprised. And replied, “I so carefully examined each package of cold cuts. And, to me, it looked like \$4.50 a pound. Now it looks different.” Again, spiritual forces were trying to get us into an argument!

**(5) Satanic Semantics.** It’s a subtle form of brainwashing. For Satan controls this world system. So “...Don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God” (James 4:4 NIV. Also, see 1 John 2:15-17). Therefore, what’s good to the devil is

bad to God. And what’s good to God is bad to the devil. Thus, you hear phrases like “She’s drop-dead gorgeous.” Or “Decadent chocolate cake.” Or “I want to spoil my daughter.” Or “I am dying for a taste of that.” Or “I’d kill for an outfit like that.” Of course, the person doesn’t really want the beautiful woman to “drop-dead.” And “spoil” means to decay or destroy. The person saying this is not going to want to destroy their daughter. But again, they hear such phrases and, after a while, it doesn’t get filtered in their mind. They don’t realize what they are saying. They mean something good, but it comes out the opposite.

**(6) The Reverse Victim Scenario.** That’s when a person under the influence of evil spirits does something intentionally to provoke another person or entity. But when their opponent complains about it, they claim that the opponent is attacking them, and that they are the victim! For example, on September 15, 2017, North Korea launched a missile from Sunan District, the site of Pyongyang’s International Airport. It flew over northern Japan before landing in the Pacific Ocean. But when Japan complained about it, the North Koreans insinuated that Japan had no right to complain and that Japan was being the aggressor!

This technique is not limited to politics. It can also be used on a much smaller scale. People under demonic influence sometimes attack someone else verbally, often with hurtful accusations. Then, when the person gets upset, they accuse the victim of saying those things to them. This is more likely to occur when the perpetrator is taking dangerous drugs. And they don’t necessarily have to be illegal. I know someone who was a victim of this type of thing when her husband was taking prescription Ambien. And I once had the experience of talking to a pharmacist who, I suspect, was taking some kind of drug. He charged me full price for a medicine but only gave me a few pills. He said the others were on order, and he’d deliver them in a couple of days. Several days went by, and I never received the medicine. When I politely asked him what happened, he instantly became angry at me **(Continued on Page 4)**



and accused me of being unreasonable. "But I paid for the full amount," I told him. "When will the rest be in?" To that, he became hostile, and told me he didn't want me as a customer anymore. I left the store thinking, "Why was he mad at me? I was the injured party, and I was very polite about it."

However, this technique is so often used that it is not limited to politics or drugs. For instance, it is often used with regard to children. I heard a minister once state that he has had multiple confrontations with grandparents when the children would run up and down the aisle during the service and cause a distraction from the message. He'd ask them to control the children better, and they would become angry and say how dare he accuse their grandchildren of anything! The sin here is idolatry, because they are putting their grandchildren ahead of Christ.

Another aspect of the "blame the victim" technique is frequently used by the male gender when a woman is raped or harassed. Lawyers use this method often to defend the attacker. "She wore a short skirt" they would say. "So she wanted to be raped." That kind of defense infuriates me! Every woman knows that no female wants to be raped! People are influenced by television. Viewers see a female character home alone, who opens her door to let a man into her house or apartment. It seems perfectly natural. Often that happens in reality too. Maybe he's a neighbor. Or he may be there to repair something around her house, or sell her insurance. Yet lawyers have used situations like this to claim the woman wanted to have sex with the rapist. And juries have often allowed the rapist to go free!

There are many versions of the "blame the victim" attack. I used to watch a television show called "It Takes A Thief." The hosts were two former thieves who had been convicted of their crimes and previously incarcerated. The idea behind the show was to encourage people to have better security on their homes. They would find a house that looked vulnerable and ask the homeowner if they would like to have their security checked. If they agreed, cameras were put in rooms around the house, and the owner would watch one of the former thieves do a mock break-in. The thief would ransack the home, leaving the refrigerator door open and the food to spoil, sometimes vandalizing items. The homeowner would eventually get all their possessions back and damaged items and spoiled food would be replaced. The thief would then meet with the homeowner and answer questions from them. And another former thief would show the homeowner how to have better security.

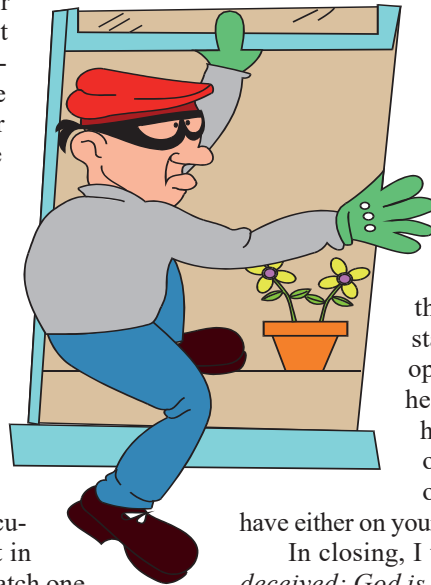
What annoyed me was the frequency with which these former thieves would claim, "These people want to be robbed. They have no security on their house." They would try to make the person feel ashamed with comments like, "Your wife and children live here, and you don't have enough security on your house. If someone breaks in and hurts them, you'd be responsible for it." And the homeowners usually believed the lie! However, I once heard a woman tell the thief, "I'm not to blame. You are to blame! People should be able to feel relaxed in their homes, not like they are in a prison. You are the one who stole these things. You're responsible for it, not me!" It made me so happy to see her stand up to him, and speak the truth.

Some day we will all stand before God and the books will be opened (see Daniel 7:10 and Revelation 20:12-15) of everything we have ever done. And it won't be the homeowner whom God

will hold responsible for the burglary. It will be the thief! I once saw a "60 Minutes" segment about Finland. It was many years ago, long before the recent influx of refugees into Europe. They showed a social club for both men and women. The camera focused on the coat closet where numerous women's handbags were placed all over the floor. The announcer said that women felt secure leaving their bags there as no one was likely to steal them. Wouldn't it be nice to have that kind of confidence in every country?

"Blame the Victim" has especially been a strategy in modern times. The onus is placed on the innocent one, thus obscuring the guilt of the oppressor. In many countries, in the Middle East, men have such a problem with lust that women are forced to cover their faces with headscarves or burkas. The woman is taught to be ashamed of her own face! And, in some cases, there are severe punishments for a woman whose face is not covered, sometimes even death. In some Moslem countries, a married woman can be gang raped, and the men are not held responsible. But the woman is put on trial for adultery! [This happened to a British tourist in November, 2016.](#)

**(7) Nervousness, Disruption, and Interruptions.** Have you noticed how impatient some people get when they are interviewed or questioned about something they don't want to admit? Christ



brings peace, love, and joy (see Philippians 4:7). Satan brings anxiety, fear, and rudeness (Isaiah 57:20, Proverbs 4:16, Galatians 5:19-21). I see this in interviews with people on television. It happens mostly between those of different political views. It's a technique often used by liberals!

If they don't like the question, they will change the subject to attack the opposing side. And they will bring up something that has nothing to do with the original question. When it is the other person's chance to talk, they will constantly interrupt, talk over them, and prevent their opponent from stating their point of view! I once heard an attorney say that, when he was in school, his law professor would say, "If you have the law on your side, argue the law. If you have the truth on your side, argue the truth. And if you do not have either on your side, confuse the matter." I guess that explains it.

In closing, I want to comfort you with these words, "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*" (Galatians 6:7 KJV). Another one of Satan's many lies is that he is getting away with the evil he does. Not so! He is already a defeated foe and was cast out of Heaven long ago (Luke 10:18). His time of ruling this planet (see Ephesians 2:2) is soon to come to an end (Revelation 12:12). By Divine revelation, the apostle John, saw into the future. And when Satan's time is up, "*...the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death*" (Revelation 20:10-14 NIV). And when that happens, Jesus will have come back to earth as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Revelation 19:11-16). "*...And so shall we ever be with the Lord*" (1 Thessalonians 4:17 KJV).