

# THE DEVIL RULES THE WORLD

## I. THE NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM EVIL

- A. Jesus Christ protects you from evil. It is important to ask God to protect you from evil. 1 John 5:18, John 17:6-15
- B. God in His wisdom, and for His purposes and glory, will sovereignly allow Christians to be affected by evil. Job and Peter
- C. The devil cannot affect you in a way in which you'll lose your salvation. 2 Timothy 4:18
- D. God wants you to be a fighter. The devil wants to discourage, divide and deceive, and you need to learn to recognize his schemes and resist them. 2 Corinthians 2:11. The main key to being a fighter of God is to have His word in you. 1 John 2:14, Eph. 6:17

## II. THERE ARE TWO SPIRITUAL REALMS IN THE WORLD

- A. There is the realm of God and the realm of the evil one, the realm of truth and the realm of error, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil, the domain of God and the domain of the devil.
- B. It's important to see beyond the physical dimension to a spiritual dimension where there are spiritual beings, where there's God and Satan, and angels and demons. Ephesians 6:10-13, 2 Kings 6:15-18
- C. The devil rules this world by lies, deception, error and falsehood. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- D. "*We know that we are of God.*" We belong to God. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ, and so now God owns us. We are His, His possession, His children, His saints, and eternally so. 1 John 5:19, Colossians 1:14

## III. THE WHOLE WORLD LIES IN THE POWER OF THE EVIL ONE

- A. This is the truth, a sobering reality. Satan is the ruler of the world. This whole world system is aligned with Satan. He has influence over everything in the world and everyone (unbelievers) in the world. John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11
- b. During this present evil age, unbelievers (sons of disobedience), walk according to the course of this world, and the devil is now working in them. Ephesians 2:1-2, Galatians 1:4

#### IV. THE DEVIL'S INFLUENCE IN THIS WORLD

A. The devil influences this world through his lies:

- God says there is a heaven and the devil says there is no heaven.
- God says Christ is the Son of God, and the devil says He is just a man.
- God says Christ is the only way to salvation and the devil says there are many ways.
- God says marriage is between a man and a woman, and the devil says it can be between a man and a man or a woman and a woman. Et cetera

B. The devil influences this world through different institutions and spheres:

- In politics - he raises up evil leaders who lead the world in evil ways. Psalm 2
- In finances - the devil wants people to think money will make you happy and keep you safe.
- In commerce - he wants you to have things, thinking that'll make you happy. Luke 12:13-21
- In education, in getting schools to teach what is wrong, to teach his lies. 1 Corinthians 1:20
- In sports, entertainment and music. Luke 6:20-26
- In food, liquor and drugs. Proverbs 25:27, Proverbs 23:29-35

C. The devil does not want God to be your God. He wants other things and other people in the world to be your god. Jeremiah 2:4-5, 11-13

D. Babylon – Revelation 17-18

1. The devil affects the religious, political and business sectors of the world.
2. *"Come out of her my people, so that you will not participate in her sins."* Rev. 18:4
3. All the things affected by the devil – Revelation 18:11-14
4. Everything you see will be judged and destroyed - *"She will be burned up with fire, for the Lord God who judges her is strong."* Revelation 18:8

DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD  
IS HOSTILITY TOWARD GOD?  
WHOEVER WISHES TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD  
MAKES HIMSELF AN ENEMY OF GOD.

James 4:4

#### SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Describe some of the different kinds of evil?
3. How does God protect you from evil? What do you need to do to be protected from evil?
4. Describe the spiritual dimension of this world? How does the devil operate in this world?
5. What does it mean to say that the world lies in the power of the evil one?
6. How does the devil influence this world? Are there areas you struggle with regards to the world?
7. What is Babylon? What does it mean for you to *"come out of her?"* How can you do it?