

The Bible teaches that Satan is the prince of this present world. He goes about as a roaring lion, but also as an angel of light. His wiles are beyond our full understanding. Although God could wipe him out in a minute if that were His will, He chooses to allow him to continue his activities during this age. We could not possibly overcome Satan in our own strength, but the Bible declares that if we submit ourselves to God, we can then resist the devil, and know that through God's strength he can be prevented from gaining control of our lives. Yet so clever are Satan's wiles that he is able in many cases to prevent Christians from utilizing God's power and to lead them instead to blame all their troubles on other Christians. As long as Satan continues his activity, troubles and misunderstandings are inevitable.

How wonderful it is to learn from Revelation 20 that after the return of Christ Satan will be bound for a thousand years so that he can deceive the nations no more. We will be able to enjoy all the good things that God has made without any interference from Satan. Then he must be loosed for a little season, but only for a little season, before being cast permanently into the lake of fire.

There is no reason to think that the promised time of bliss and happiness will end after the thousand years. That period, which will begin when Jesus returns to this earth and sets up His kingdom, is called "the millennium" because some important events will occur after a thousand years. These events, however, do not mean that Christ's kingdom will come to an end. It is a kingdom that cannot be destroyed. At the end of the thousand years Satan will try to destroy it, but his effort will fail.

The Bible has not told us what will happen after Satan's revolt has ended and the wicked dead have been judged and condemned. We do not know whether we will continue on a purified and renewed earth, or whether we will be taken off to some other part of the universe or to some other type of existence. Bible students have advanced various theories, but this is one of the many matters that God has not revealed to us.