

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-31 Jesus Delegates Power

Did you ever ask yourself, "Where is Satan now?" God is everywhere-present, but Satan is not. Satan can take on visible forms or be invisible, but he is basically in one place at a time. Previously we have learned that Satan is the accuser of Christ's brethren and that he spends some of his time before God's throne accusing us of our sins. He is able to do this because he has fallen angels to do his work on the earth. When God created the universe He created the physical world that we can see, feel, and touch. But He also created the spiritual world where the angels live and where He chose to place His throne room.

God made man a three-part being. We have a body, a soul, and a spirit. Our spirits connect us to the spirit world and it is through our spirits that Satan and his fallen angels attack us. Fallen angels want to experience all of the carnal pleasures of our world. They desire to cross over into our world but are not allowed to. We learned previously that fallen angels who did cross over in ancient times were punished. God bound them in chains and they wait in darkness for their final judgment. Satan's angels found another way that they could experience our world. They do this by getting a human to open their spirits up to them. They then can enter the person and possess them. Through this possession they experience our world through the person.

Today we will learn about the miraculous power of Jesus and His earthly ministry that He shared with His disciples. Jesus traveled through Galilee gathering disciples. He taught them the truths about the kingdom of God. Everywhere Jesus went He performed great miracles. He healed the sick, raised the dead, and cast out demons, that is, Satan's fallen angels, from the people they had possessed. He performed these miracles not because He was God, but rather as a man led by the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit performing these great works through Him. Jesus did this to teach us that we too could perform incredible miracles if we would be filled and led by the Holy Spirit.

Thus Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, and cast demons out of people who had been possessed by Satan's fallen angels. You might imagine that Satan was not pleased with this. But, Jesus was an isolated problem. He was one man, in one place, at one brief moment in history. "How much trouble could one man cause?"

One day Jesus called His disciples together. He had already chosen 12 to be His inner circle, but on this day He chose 72 more. They were given power and authority to go out into the villages to prepare the way for Jesus. So the 72 fanned out across Israel, preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, and also casting out demons. Can you imagine the chaos this must have created in the spirit world? Suddenly this small problem is spreading like a wild fire. Not only is Jesus casting out demons, but now 72 others are doing it too. If this keeps up, soon Jesus and His followers will cover the world and Satan's earthly empire will fall. He would not allow this to happen. There is a prideful saying that if you want something done right, then you will have to

do it yourself. So Satan, full of pride, left the throne room of God and descended to the earth. He himself would deal with this ‘Jesus problem’ once and for all.

The 72 disciples returned to Jesus rejoicing at the mighty miracles that God had wrought through them. Jesus gave them a warm welcome, but then gave them a mild rebuke. “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven,” Jesus said. “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:18-20).

And indeed, Satan had flown down from heaven as fast as a lightning bolt. The disciples had been casting out Satan's fallen angels, but now Satan himself had come down to personally deal with Jesus. Thus he fell into the trap that God had set for him. For many millennia Satan had been very careful to play by the rules and never to break any of God's laws. Throughout his rebellion he had never given God opportunity to condemn him. But Satan was about to experience the beauty of God's perfect plan.

This lesson is **important** because God still gives Holy Spirit power to His children today to preach the gospel, to heal the sick, and cast out demons

The **main truth** of this lesson is that the Holy Spirit in us is greater in power than the evil spirits of Satan in this world.

Let's **review** what you learned in this lesson.

1. What did Jesus give to the 72 disciples He sent out? [Pause 5 seconds]
 - A. If you said, “He gave them power and authority,” you are correct.
2. Why were Jesus' 72 disciples rejoicing when they returned after ministry in Israel? [Pause]
 - A. If you said, “They rejoiced because they had authority over fallen angels,” then you answered correctly.
3. Why do you think Satan came down to earth as fast as a lightning bolt? [Pause]
 - A. You are right if you said, “Different people interpret this verse in the Bible in different ways. One interpretation is that Satan was coming to the earth to deal with Jesus personally.”

This lesson contains many truths. Ask yourself, “Does God still give power to His children today to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons?” Have you experienced this power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Your **assignment** is to watch this lesson as many times as is necessary to memorize the various truths and then share these insights with a fellow believer. All who have received Christ need to understand that the Holy Spirit in us is greater than the evil spirits in this world.