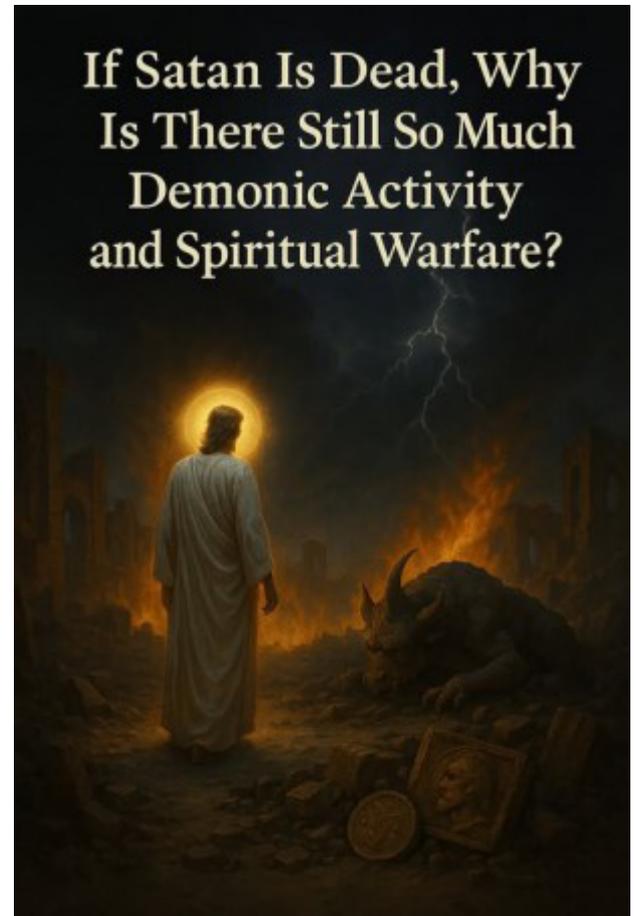


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Satan - If Satan Is Dead, Why Is There Still So Much Demonic Activity and Spiritual Warfare?



By Dan Maines

If Satan Is Dead, Why Is There Still So Much Demonic Activity and Spiritual Warfare?

Introduction This is a common and sincere question: If Satan was destroyed, then why does the world still feel so dark? Why do people experience evil, temptation, or even what they call demonic activity? From a Preterist viewpoint, we affirm the full victory of Christ over Satan, death, and the powers of darkness. Yet we must also be careful to understand what scripture says about the nature of evil, the power of sin, human choice, and the reality of personal responsibility after the fulfillment of all

prophecy.

Satan's Defeat Was Final and Fulfilled According to scripture, the purpose of Christ's coming was to destroy the works of the devil.

Hebrews 2:14 "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil."

This was not a partial defeat. Christ crushed Satan's power through His death and resurrection.

Romans 16:20 "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." Paul said soon because the fulfillment was near. The final crushing was not in our future, but theirs.

Revelation 20:10 "And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." This is a final judgment, not an ongoing battle. Satan's destruction is complete.

So Why Does It Still Feel Like Spiritual Warfare? The problem is not with prophecy, but with how we interpret our struggles.

James 1:14-15 "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death."

Notice James does not blame Satan. He puts the responsibility on us. Spiritual warfare, then, is not against some external cosmic devil still roaming free, but against our own sinful

desires and false thinking.

Ephesians 6:12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

This passage described a real war in their generation. That war was climaxing in the fall of Jerusalem, when the powers that opposed Christ were judged. The rulers and spiritual forces were linked to that age.

Colossians 2:15 "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him." This happened at the cross, not in our time.

Demons Were Linked to Israel's Judgment In the Gospels, demon possession is prominent in the land of Israel. But after 70 AD, demonic activity fades in the biblical record. Why? Because demonic possession was connected to Israel's apostasy and the transition of the covenants.

Matthew 12:43-45 "Now when the unclean spirit comes out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'... That is the way it will also be with this evil generation." Jesus connected demon activity with that evil generation, not ours.

Where Does Evil Come From Now?

From our own hearts (Mark 7:21-23)

From false teaching (2 Peter 2:1-3)

From worldly systems built on greed and lust (1 John 2:15-17)

From generational lies and trauma passed down

From people who knowingly or unknowingly reject the truth of Christ

The so-called demonic experiences today are not proof that Satan is still alive. They are the result of sin, deception, addiction, fear, and human wickedness.

We Still Have Free Will Even in a fulfilled kingdom, we are not forced into righteousness. We have been given the choice to walk in the light or return to darkness. Spiritual warfare continues because human choice continues. We can either surrender to Christ or serve the desires of the flesh.

Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants."

Joshua 24:15 "But if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Galatians 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit."

We are not victims of Satan. We are stewards of our decisions. The true battlefield is the heart. The Spirit leads us to life. Our flesh pulls us toward ruin. And every day, we choose.

Conclusion: The Victory Is Real, So Fight the Right Battle

We are not fighting Satan anymore. Christ already won. The lake of fire was his end. But we still wage a different kind of battle: a daily battle against the flesh, against lies, and against the pull of a godless world.

Galatians 5:16-17 "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh."

Romans 13:12 "The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, let's rid ourselves of the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."

If we understand the fulfillment of prophecy rightly, then we know the devil has already been defeated. Our call now is to live out that victory, not fear some defeated enemy, but walk boldly in the Spirit of Christ who reigns.

Amen.

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