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Jesus, the Savior of Mankind—P5

“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8).

For the sake of his “splendor” (Ez. 28:17), satan would not serve God’s plan for mankind—he rejected God’s Word for himself and then inspired mankind to sin in an attempt to undo God’s Word for them, which had promised that they would inherit the world to come, not angels. His gambit required him to inspire great sin in the earth, but he thought he could justify himself by causing the whole world to condemn itself, for he knew that Holy God would not give the coming world to sinners.

Satan was likely confident that nothing short of destroying mankind could undo the power of sin, and if God allowed man to continue in sin, they could not inherit the coming world, so either way, God would have to break His Word concerning mankind, and satan would win in his argument against God. Yet because he presumed he knew God’s purpose, he was taken completely by surprise with God’s answer, for God’s Word went forth unhindered: “*From the heavens You uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still, when God arose to establish judgment, to save all the humble of the earth. Selah*” (Psalm 76:8-9). In the proper time, God showed how much He “*loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him*” (John 3:16-17). God’s Son was His plan all along to destroy satan’s work of condemning every man and woman through their sins. The Son of God came to save, not

to condemn, and He would restore God’s design for humility and service in His creation, which satan had rejected. Indeed, in satan’s “wisdom” the smartest and strongest deserve what they can take, and by his guidance, “*the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them [the people], and their great ones exercise authority over them,*” but God’s command was, “*It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many*” (Matt. 20:25-28).

It would have seemed utter nonsense to satan that Almighty God would come down into the world as a Son of Man to pay the price for the sins he had inspired men to do. Yet, God did just that, for the Son of Man is Jesus Christ “*who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name*” (Phil. 2:6-9), thus it is declared to Jesus in heaven, “*You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth*” (Rev. 5:9-10). Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s Word from the beginning to give the coming world to mankind—those that believe on Him.

Of old God said, “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart’...For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men*” (1 Cor. 1:18-25), just as it is wiser and stronger than angels. Amen.

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