

I. The kingdom of the devil

A. The subjects of the kingdom of the devil: only over unbelievers

FC Ep. I. Original Sin 13] 4. The punishment and penalty of original sin, which God has imposed upon the children of Adam and upon original sin, are death, eternal damnation, and also other bodily and spiritual, temporal and eternal miseries, and **the tyranny and dominion of the devil**, so that human nature is subject to **the kingdom of the devil** and has been surrendered to **the power of the devil**, and is held captive under his away, who stupefies [fascinates] and leads astray many a great, learned man in the world by means of dreadful error, heresy, and other blindness, and otherwise rushes men into all sorts of crime.

Ephesians 2:1-10 And you He made alive, **who were dead in trespasses and sins**, 2in which you once **walked** (1) according to **the course of this world**, (2) **according to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3among whom also **we all once** conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others.

1 John 3:4, 7-8a, Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness....

⁷Little children, let no one **deceive you**. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸**He who sins is of the devil**, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

B. The governance of the kingdom of the devil

1. The devil, himself

When the Scriptures describe the devil as the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, 16:33), it is not speaking of the kingdom of the state(God’s servant, the government), but the world of unbelievers (the sinful world, which due because of original sin, “we all once conducted ourselves in... and were by nature children of wrath” Eph 2:3.

Ephesians 2:1-10 ... **the spirit who now works** in the sons of disobedience, ...

Romans 7:14-15; 24 For we know that the law is spiritual, but **I am carnal, sold under sin**.

15For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.... 24O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

2 Timothy 2:25-26 ...if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, **having been taken captive by him to do his will**.

The devil’s Power

Hebrews 2:14 ..{God in Christ} He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy **him who had the power of death, that is, the devil**,

Acts 26:17-18 ... ‘to open their eyes, in order to turn them **from darkness** to light, and **from the power of Satan** to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’ (Colossians 1:13-14 **the power of darkness**)

--A liar (deceiver) and a murderer

John 8:44-45 “You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was **a murderer from the beginning**, and **does not stand in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. (Acts 13:10 son of the devil)

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 20:10, The devil, **who deceived them**....)

Luke 8:12 “Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and **takes away the word out of their hearts**, lest they should believe and be saved.

2. The kingdom of the antichrist, sits in the external church on earth

- 1 John 2:18, Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that **the Antichrist** is coming, even now **many antichrists** have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, **so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God....** ⁹The coming of the *lawless one* is **according to the working of Satan**, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Delivered (Binding of Satan and 1,000 years and little season)

- John 12:31 “Now is the judgment of this world; now **the ruler of this world** will be cast out.
- John 16:8-11 “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹“of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰“of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹“of judgment, because **the ruler of this world is judged.**
- John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world** you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.**”
- Revelation 20:2, He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is **the Devil and Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years;
- Acts 26:17-18 ‘I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸**to open their eyes**, in order **to turn them** from darkness **to light**, and from the power of Satan **to God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’
- Revelation 20:2, He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Christ over the Power of the Devil

- 1 John 3:5-6, 8-10 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.... ⁸**He who sins is of the devil**, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.
 - 2 Timothy 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, **having been taken captive by him to do his will.**
- Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy **him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,**
- Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from **the power of darkness** and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- Acts 26:17-18 ‘I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸**to open their eyes**, in order to turn them **from darkness** to light, and **from the power of Satan** to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

Luke 11:18; 20 “If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub....²⁰“But if I cast out demons **with the finger of God**, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 11:21-22 “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. 22“But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Matthew 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Apology of the Augsburg Confession II.

46] Although the scholastics extenuate both sin and punishment when they teach that man, by his own strength, can fulfil the commandments of God; in Genesis the punishment, imposed on account of original sin, is described otherwise. **For there human nature is subjected not only to death and other bodily evils, but also to the kingdom of the devil.** For there, Gen. 3, 15, this fearful sentence is proclaimed: *I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed.* **47]** The defects and the concupiscence are punishments and sins. Death and other bodily evils, and the dominion of the devil, are properly punishments. For human nature has been delivered into slavery and is held captive by the devil, who infatuates it with wicked opinions and errors, and **48]** impels it to sins of every kind. But just as the devil cannot be conquered except by the aid of Christ, so by our own strength we cannot free ourselves **49]** from this slavery. Even the history of the world shows **how great is the power of the devil’s kingdom.** The world is full of blasphemies against God and of wicked opinions, and the devil keeps entangled in these bands those who are wise and **50]** righteous [many hypocrites who appear holy] in the sight of the world. In other persons grosser vices manifest themselves. **But since Christ was given to us to remove both these sins and these punishments, and to destroy the kingdom of the devil, sin and death,** it will not be possible to recognize the benefits of Christ unless we understand our evils. For this reason our preachers have diligently taught concerning these subjects, and have delivered nothing that is new, but have set forth Holy Scripture and the judgments of the holy Fathers.

Ap IV, III, 17-18

For human nature is far too weak to be able by its own powers to resist the devil, who holds as captives all who have not been freed through faith. **18]** There is need of the power of Christ against the devil, namely, that, inasmuch as we know that for Christ’s sake we are heard, and have the promise, we may pray for the governance and defense of the Holy Ghost, that we may neither be deceived and err, nor be impelled to undertake anything contrary to God’s will. [Otherwise we should, every hour, fall into error and abominable vices.] Just as **Ps. 68, 18 teaches: *Thou hast led captivity captive; Thou hast received gifts for man.* For Christ has overcome the devil, and has given to us the promise and the Holy Ghost, in order that, by divine aid, we ourselves also may overcome. And 1 John 3, 8: *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.***

129] Such faith is neither an easy matter, as the adversaries dream [as they say: Believe, believe, how easy it is to believe! etc.], nor a human power [thought which I can form for myself], but **a divine power, by which we are quickened,** and by which we overcome the devil and death. Just

as Paul says to the Colossians, 2, 12 that **faith is efficacious through the power of God**, and overcomes death: *Wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God.*

Ap VII and VIII The Church

16] Therefore, only those are the people, according to the Gospel, who receive this promise of the Spirit. **Besides, the Church is the kingdom of Christ, distinguished from the kingdom of the devil. It is certain, however, that the wicked are in the power of the devil, and members of the kingdom of the devil, as Paul teaches, Eph. 2, 2, when he says that the devil now worketh in the children of disobedience. And Christ says to the Pharisees, who certainly had outward fellowship with the Church, i.e., with the saints among the people of the Law (for they held office, sacrificed, and taught): Ye are of your father, the devil, John 8, 44. Therefore, the Church, which is truly the kingdom of Christ, is properly the congregation of saints. For the wicked are ruled by the devil, and are captives of the devil; they are not ruled by the Spirit of Christ.**

17] But what need is there of words in a manifest matter? [However, the adversaries contradict the plain truth.] If the Church, which is truly the kingdom of Christ, is distinguished from the kingdom of the devil, it follows necessarily that the wicked, since they are **in the kingdom of the devil, are not the Church; although in this life, because the kingdom of Christ has not yet been revealed; they are mingled with the Church, and hold offices [as teachers, and other offices] in the Church.** 18] Neither are the wicked the kingdom of Christ, for the reason that the revelation has not yet been made. For that is always the kingdom which He quickens by His Spirit, whether it be revealed or be covered by the cross; just as He who has now been glorified is the same Christ who was before afflicted.

FC SD VII

2] and we simply believe that the entire person, God and man, after the burial descended into hell, **conquered the devil, destroyed the power of hell, and took from the devil all his might.**