

FINAL SCORE

Jesus-1, Satan-0



BY PASTOR MARK JESKE

TIME OF
GRACE[®]

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Direct quotations from the
Bible (NIV) are printed in bold.

Everybody faces threats, threats large and small, pretty much every day. Some threats you can see, like when a deer suddenly leaps out onto the highway in front of your car. Some of you have had the miserable experience of hitting a deer, which then has negative consequence to the bumper and grill of your car. I guess the deer is pretty much totaled too. But usually you can see that big, brown thing bounding in front of you, right?

If you get carjacked, there is no doubt whatsoever who your enemy is and where your threat is coming from. It's the guy who's got a weapon and is trying to take your car away from you. If you get mugged, there is no doubt whatsoever where the threat is coming from.

But you know what? There are a lot of threats to our lives that are completely invisible to our eyes, and yet they still have enormous impact on the way in which we live.

For instance, take viruses. You have never seen a virus, have you? And I know why—a virus is only 1/100,000 of an inch in length. In fact, a virus is not even a complete cell. A virus is nothing more than a traveling bit of genetic code with a drill

bit on the end of it, looking around for protein and tissue to drill into. Once the virus seizes the DNA content and material within that other cell, it replicates itself and makes more little drillers. Then they scatter out into your body. That's where a lot of human sickness comes from. That's how H1N1 is spread. That's where your colds come from. Yet you never actually see the viruses that attack you.

Remember what happened in Ukraine back in 1986, when it was still called the Soviet Union? You probably have never heard of the Ukrainian city of Pripyat, known for extensive marshlands nearby. But Pripyat was the site of the Chernobyl nuclear reactors that provided power for at least 10 percent of Ukraine's electrical needs. Does the name Chernobyl ring a bell?

One April day in 1986, through a combination of some bad design and some criminal negligence on the part of the people running the reactors, the unthinkable happened. The night shift decided to run some tests on a reactor, and a series of almost domino-like events ensued. By a string of bad decisions, they actually succeeded in breaking some of the fuel rods that then clogged the holes where the

control rods came out of, and they couldn't get the control rods back in. The reactor slowly overheated, and there was a steam explosion that then caused the reactor itself to melt down. Clouds of radioactive gas went blowing into the air.

Criminally, the Soviet government said nothing. Not to the international community, not to the country at large, not even to the people surrounding it. They kept it in total secret. The news broke in Sweden, hundreds of miles away. Swedish engineers detected radioactive gases in the atmosphere over their country. At first they panicked, thinking it was their own reactors that were leaking. They did all kinds of tests and found out that the problem was not coming from them. They then fingered the Soviet Union; they were right.

Now let me tell you something about radioactivity. It is one of the most deadly things known to man, and it is invisible. Even people who should have known better took no precautions when the explosion happened.

The crew that worked during the night trying to contain the reactors from blowing up the entire compound was dead

in three weeks because their bodies took such a load of radioactivity. They never saw what killed them. All they saw were the horrible results.

At least another four or five dozen people died. They had to evacuate the entire region; a hundred thousand people lost their homes. In fact, their homes are like museums right now, radioactive museums with food still in the fridge and with all their family possessions still in their houses, just the way it was when they had to leave. It will not be safe to go back in that roped-off area for many, many decades.

The soldiers who helicoptered in sandbags and concrete to try to contain the radioactivity are all dead. The firefighters who came over to try to help put out the fires from the steam explosion are all dead. They never saw what killed them.

I want to tell you about a menace even worse than radioactivity. I want to tell you about the menace of sin and the menace of Satan and the evil angels, who though invisible to you are an even greater threat than viruses or radioactivity.

You have an enemy in hell with tens of thousands of enemy agents who are seeking

how they can destroy you, body and soul. They will try to pretend to be your best friends and persuade you that their advice to you is good and real and will make your life happier. But in reality the messages that they send to you are suicidal. And I want to share with you what God is doing about it. I want you to be aware of a battle that is raging all around you, except that your senses cannot perceive it. Just as you cannot see your body's immune system or your white blood cells kick into action against invaders in your body, just as you cannot see radioactivity touching healthy tissues, you cannot see what Satan and the demons are up to.

But I want to tell you this—your God can see everything going on, and someday you will too. In the meantime, you need to know about this warfare going on. But I want to give you some great confidence in knowing that your Savior has already won the decisive battle. It's a shutout. And Jesus shares his victory with all who believe in him.

Let's look at Luke chapter 10. This is a conversation between Jesus and an evangelism team that he put together. Some of you might remember from your readings in the four gospels that Jesus

recruited 12 disciples (i.e., trainees) and gave them intense training to help them become apostles (i.e., his authoritative personal representatives in the world). And he sent them out on a little practice ministry tour, along with a wider circle of what you might call lay leaders. There were 72 of them—people just like you, ordinary people with ordinary lives with ordinary jobs that went ahead to all the villages and towns where Jesus was headed.

He commissioned them with a very short but important message. What he said was something like this: "I want you to let people know the kingdom of God is near." What he meant was that God was doing great things to advance the salvation of the world, and he was going to be doing it right in their line of vision. They would be able to watch God advancing the rescue plan for the world if they were paying attention.

They would watch the Messiah operating right before their very eyes. He didn't want them to miss it. It's just like TV—when there's going to be something really great on television, the networks don't sit on it. They tip you off in every way they can with print ads, with radio ads, and by having teasers and little commercials running for the great show for weeks before.

The villages were going to get the chance, maybe their only chance, to see Jesus up close and personal. So these 72 trainees were going house-to-house to tell others that the kingdom of God was near. And in order to back up what they were saying, because there was no written New Testament at this time, Jesus promised and gave them unusual abilities, supernatural abilities, to back up what they were saying.

One of the things he said to them was, **“Heal the sick who are there”** (verse 9). And by this he didn’t mean, “I want you to take sick people to clinics.” He meant miraculous, instantaneous, God-kind-of healing—healing with a touch or a word. This was to authenticate the message.

Jesus also empowered them to cast out demons, for Satan and his demons not only had a rage against Jesus. Because he came to earth to dare to claim it back, they attacked in force, and demons from hell actually were taking over the bodies of people and tormenting them and throwing them around and abusing them. (If you ask me, this was kind of a counterproductive move on Satan’s part because he does his best work when he bribes us with adultery and money and thrills and fame. When he blows his cover and when we actually can

see what it means to be controlled by Satan, it’s repulsive and horrible. If you and I could look at the miserable lives of some of the demon-possessed people, we would no longer believe that Satan was our friend ever again.)

Back to the story: **“The seventy-two”**—the lay leaders who got special training and were on a special, short-term publicity trip—came back and they **“returned with joy.”** They were really excited about the “power” aspects of the trip that they had just been on. “Hey, this works!” They said, **“Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name”** (verse 17).

So the 72 were all excited about the *power*: “We made some demons let go of their hold on some poor individuals and set them free.” That is indeed a great thing. But Jesus wanted them to keep this in perspective. He wanted them to know he is Lord over all the earth and Lord over hell and Satan and the demons as well, and they rightly did have confidence in him. In fact, they would not have been able to cast those demons out if the power of the Lord had not been behind it and if they had not been believing in it.

But Jesus told them to calm down and get a little perspective. They had indeed seen some of the underlings cast out. Jesus said, “I saw their boss **‘fall like lightning from heaven’**” (verse 18). The Lord of heaven watched in triumph as Satan himself was cast out of heaven.

At the beginning of time, Satan had been created as a creature of light, beauty, and holiness, a pure and holy angel, one of the highest rank. And when he went ugly and rebelled against God, he was not allowed to stay in heaven. Although he and the demons that he persuaded to join in his rebellion would have liked to stick around in heaven, **“there was war in heaven”** (Revelation 12:7).

And the archangel Michael, along with the good angels, clashed with Satan and the demons. Satan is no longer *Lucifer*, the “light bearer,” the “angel of beauty”; he’s now *Satan*, which is the Aramaic word for “adversary” or “enemy.” He is now *devil*, which is related to the word *diabolical*, which means “the accuser.” He is now your worst enemy.

There was a clash in heaven, and Satan was not strong enough to prevail. He was thrown out of heaven. And I think Jesus

was reminding the disciples, “I saw the big guy go down. And the archangel Michael and his armies, with the power of God behind them, threw that evil out of heaven. I saw him go flaming out of the sky like a meteor.” But unfortunately for you and me, the devil landed here. And for the short time that remains of earth’s history, Satan crawls the surface of this planet looking to see whom else he can take down with him.

So what? Celebrate with me that our Lord is more powerful than Satan. It is a big deal that your best friend is stronger than your worst enemy. Christ is going to use his power on your behalf to set limits to what Satan can do to hurt you. These limits are like your body’s immune system. You’ve never been able to inspect your body’s immune system because you can’t see it. But if it shuts down, you can see the ugly effects. If your immune system shuts down, death is not far away.

If Jesus pulled away the angel armies that have their wings over you right now, you wouldn’t last very long with Satan and his demons near. Satan thrives on your misery. He loves it when you’re hurting, when you’re upset, when you’re depressed, when you feel horrible.

If the angels were pulled away from protecting you, you'd be chewed up. But there's something even bigger than that. Suppose the original person who started spreading HIV all around, which leads to the deadly disease of AIDS, and even the first ten people who were infected with HIV were still living and could all be positively identified and then all quarantined (i.e., taken away completely from interaction with any other human being). Would AIDS disappear from the earth? Alas, no. It would not, because now there are many millions of people replicating that same virus and passing it on to others. Taking away the original source of it doesn't cure the problem when the problem is self-replicating.

Suppose that God would simply snuff out Satan's existence and every other demon right now. Would your sin go away? Would temptation vanish? They wouldn't, because we now have that virus of spiritual evil inside of us, and we're replicating it. Wherever there is a childbirth, a new sinner is born. More of that sin virus is added to the world.

Our real problem is not the sickness of our bodies but the disease of sin inside that not

only wrecks our lives but wrecks our eternity. Jesus wanted the disciples to realize exactly what was at stake.

He said, **"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"** (verse 18). He saw the power of God demonstrated. **"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you"** (verse 19). And true enough, as long as God has work for you to do, until your work is done, you're bulletproof. Nothing can touch you if God has put his shield around you.

But **"do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you."** Don't get into the power game, because even if we got rid of every demon and Satan himself, the basic problem remains—the pollution and infection of your soul with sin that makes you a candidate for their prison. He said, **"Rejoice that your names are written in heaven"** (verse 20).

The Lord Jesus did something even more decisive to Satan than casting him out of heaven. He suffered and died, offering up his life as a perfect and innocent substitute for you and for me by obeying all the

commandments we had broken, by living the life we wish we could have led but never did, and then by offering his body up for the anger of God like a human and divine lightning rod to absorb all the judgment and condemnation. In this way he gives you and me the forgiveness that we must have.

And he said, “If you really want to hear some good news, it’s this: The reservation book at the hotel of my heavenly Father and your heavenly Father has your name in it. Thanks to what I have done, you have forgiveness of your sins.”

And when Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished!” what he was saying was, “Satan, *you’re* finished, and the power that you have over my children’s bodies is limited. But even better, the power you have over their souls is ended. They belong to me now. I can rebuild their bodies; I can replace whatever health they’ve lost. I can remake them. But the fact is that now I have them back.”

Right now if you want something to rejoice in, it’s in what Christ has done for you, not merely to overpower Satan but to break the power of Satan over your damnation.

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). If you want to rejoice in something, rejoice that your names are written in heaven. That gift is yours by faith in him.

I now commission you to take your place with the 72, for you can see here that what God calls church work, spreading the good news of the Savior, is not just for the 12 apostles, but it’s for all of God’s people.

There are people you know who are living lives of quiet desperation—fearful, hopeless, terrified of their own guilt, terrified of their meeting with God, having no confidence whatsoever that they will end up in heaven. You have an answer for them. It is from the Lord who is greater than the power of Satan, and he’s greater also than the condemnation of Satan.

As he sends his holy angels to take care of you in this life, remember that those same angels, the Bible promises, will lift all the believers up in their wings and carry us out of here to the brand-new world that God is going to make. Now that sounds like good news that’s worthy of sharing.



STRAIGHT TALK. REAL HOPE.

“Go . . . and teach all nations.” This command from a resurrected Jesus Christ to his disciples over 2,000 years ago is the driving force behind Time of Grace, a multimedia, Christian outreach ministry dedicated to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people, especially those who have not heard it. Founded in May of 2001, Time of Grace primarily uses television to share the gospel with people across the country in an expanding number of markets. (See complete list on the following pages.)

Originating from St. Marcus Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Time of Grace broadcasts a half-hour program each week featuring Pastor Mark Jeske. He presents Bible studies in terms that people can relate to and apply to their personal lives.

We hope you will watch *Time of Grace* if it is broadcast in your area. Or—visit our website at timeofgrace.org where you will find recent messages of Pastor Jeske. We have a variety of booklets, DVDs, or videos available. You also can contact us at **1-800-661-3311**.

God’s Blessings!

BROADCAST SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, 8:00AM CT

Daystar on DIRECTV Ch. 369 | Dish Network Ch. 263

SUNDAY, 2:00PM CT NRB DIRECTV Ch. 378

ARIZONA

PHOENIX

KSAZ FOX, Ch. 10

Sunday at 7:00am MT

TUCSON

KOLD CBS, Ch. 13

Sunday at 7:00am MT

ARKANSAS

BELLA VISTA

Bella Vista Cable, Ch. 16

Sunday at 8:00am CT

COLORADO

DENVER

KDVR FOX, Ch. 31

Sunday at 7:00 & 8:30am MT

FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE

WACX, Ch. 69

Sunday at 5:30pm ET

TALLAHASSEE

WACX, Ch. 9

Sunday at 5:30pm ET

ORLANDO

WACX, Ch. 55

Sunday at 5:30pm ET

INDIANA

SOUTH BEND

WHME Le Sea, Ch. 46

Sunday at 10:30am

KANSAS

GREAT BEND/HAYS

KBDK FOX, Ch. 14

Sunday at 7:00am CT

WICHITA

KSAS FOX, Ch. 24

Sunday at 7:00am CT

SALINA

KAAS FOX, Ch. 18

Sunday at 7:00am CT

MICHIGAN

FLINT

WSMH FOX, Ch. 66

Sunday at 7:00am ET

ST. JOSEPH/BENTON HARBOR

WHME Le Sea, Ch. 46

Sunday at 10:30am

MARQUETTE

WBUP, Ch. 5/10

Sunday at 7:30am ET

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS

KMSP FOX, Ch. 9

Sunday at 6:30am CT

NEW ULM

New Ulm Telcom Cable, Ch. 3

Sunday at 10:00am and 7:00pm CT

Comcast Cable, Ch. 14

Sunday at 10:00am and 7:00pm CT

BROADCAST SCHEDULE *continued*

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS

KDNL-ABC, Ch. 30
Sunday at 7:30am CT

MONTANA

MISSOULA

Community Access, Ch. 7
Tuesday at 6:30pm MT
Sunday at 10:30am MT

TEXAS

AUSTIN

KBVO, Ch. 14
Sunday at 7:30am CT

WASHINGTON, DC

WJLA ABC, Ch. 7
Sunday at 7:30am ET

WISCONSIN

BARABOO

WRPQ, Ch. 43
Sunday at 8:00 CT

GREEN BAY

WGBA NBC, Ch. 26
Sunday at 6:30am CT
WACY, Ch. 32
Sunday at 7:30am CT

LA CROSSE

WKBT CBS, Ch. 8
Sunday at 7:00am CT

MADISON

WMSN FOX, Ch. 47
Sunday at 7:00am CT
WBUW-CW, Ch. 57
Sunday at 8:30am CT

MILWAUKEE

WITI FOX, Ch. 6
Sunday at 7:30am CT

WAUSAU

WSAW CBS, Ch. 7
Sunday at 7:30am CT

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

Solarus Cable, Ch. 985
Sunday at 12:00pm CT

INTERNATIONAL

ANTIGUA/BARBUDA

ABS Antigua Broadcasting Station
Sunday at 5:30pm

GRENADA, WEST INDIES

GBN Television
Sunday at 6:30pm

AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK

Airs on rotation. See myafn.net for times.

For a complete broadcast schedule,
visit our website: timeofgrace.org.

• Always check your local listings.

TIME OF GRACE

WITH PASTOR MARK JESKE

P.O. BOX 301

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201-0301

T 414.562.8463 OR 1.800.661.3311

F 414.562.8464

INFO@TIMEOFGRACE.ORG

WWW.TIMEOFGRACE.ORG