



## The King in Conflict Pt 6: Stronger than the Strong Man!

July 21, 2019

HOLY TEXT: MATTHEW 12:29

Last week, we were exhorted by the Scriptures concerning a “divided house” and its inability to stand. Any entity that turns on itself will begin destroying itself, whether it be a kingdom, a government, business team, a sports team, a home and family, or even a single person. Matthew Henry wrote:

*Here is a known rule laid down, that in all societies a common ruin is the consequence of mutual quarrels: Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every family too. For what family is so strong, what community so firm, as not to be overturned by enmity and dissension? Divisions commonly end in desolations; if we clash, we break; if we divide one from another, we become an easy prey to a common enemy; much more if we bite and devour one another, shall we be consumed one of another, Gal 5:15. Churches and nations have known this by sad experience.*

It is important to note that our LORD was, in no uncertain terms, telling the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was upon them; that He cast out devils by a superior power...the Spirit of God! He then gives them another example via metaphor. Here it is from the NLT:

*Matthew 12:29 (NLT) For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.*

JESUS: STRONGER THAN THE STRONG MAN!

1. The “strong man” in the metaphor is the one who rules over the kingdom of darkness, or Satan.
2. **Jesus** is the one who enters the strong man’s house, and by superior power, binds him and “spoils” or plunders his house.
3. This text in Luke says the strong man is armed! He is capable of fighting back! He is actively guarding what “belongs” to him; he doesn't want to lose his goods!

*Luke 11:21-22 (KJV) When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: 22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*

4. Friends, our text is a combat metaphor, one of violence, common in the New Testament. (Matt 11:12; 2 Tim 2:3-4; 2 Cor 10:3-5; Eph 6:10-17)
5. Again, just as our King was in conflict, know that we are as well. Indeed, Jesus said the gates of hell shall not prevail against His church (Matt 16:18), which suggests the very fight illustrated in our text!

**Let’s break it down even further...**

1. Satan has a house...a kingdom. (Luke 4:5-6; Rev 12:7-9)
2. We were Satan’s **prisoners**, trapped in the strong man’s house! (1 John 5:18-19; 2 Cor 4:3-4; 1 John 3:10; 2 Tim 2:24-26; Eph 2:1-3)

3. **Jesus** is stronger than the strong man! (Eph 2:4-10; Titus 2:11-14, 3:3-7) Matthew Henry said:

The world, that sat in darkness, and lay in wickedness, was in Satan's possession, and under his power, as a house in the possession and under the power of a strong man; so is every unregenerate soul; there Satan resides, there he rules. Now, (1.) The design of Christ's gospel was to spoil the devil's house, which, as a strong man, he kept in the world; to turn the people from darkness to light, from sin to holiness, from this world to a better, from the power of Satan unto God (Act 26:18); to alter the property of souls. (2.) Pursuant to this design, he bound the strong man, when he cast out unclean spirits by his word: thus he wrested the sword out of the devil's hand, that he might wrest the sceptre out of it.

4. Just as our LORD **overcame** the strong man, we, in Him, have too! (Heb 2:14-15; 1 Cor 15:55-58; Rev 12:10-11; Rom 8:35-39)

#### APPLICATIONS:

1. Your salvation means you have been delivered from the strong man's house; you are under new **management!** (Col 1:13-14)
2. Be reminded that our King, Jesus Christ, is not in **competition** with Satan; He is LORD and LORD of all! (Acts 10:36; Col 1:16-17)
3. **Rejoice** therefore that your Name is written in His book and that no one can snatch you from His hand! (Luke 10:20; Rev 3:5)
4. Tell **everyone** the life-saving, life-giving, message of Christ!! (1 Cor 15:1-4)

***Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God, rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation.***

5. And finally church, **resist** the devil, and watch him run...

*James 4:7 (KJV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Amen!