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The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

Chapter 14 - Casting Down the Accuser of the Brethren (Part 2)

Is the Devil at the Throne of God?

Ephesians 2:6 tells us that we have been raised up and are seated “with [Christ] in the heavenly places.” Let us understand that, while our bodies and souls are quite fixed here upon earth, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, our spirits have been brought into direct fellowship with Christ in heaven. From this position, we can boldly approach God’s throne of grace and we can enter through prayer and worship into the true holy place of God (Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-20; see also Matthew 5:8; Colossians 3:1-4).

There are many Scriptures which support the truth of our positional seating with Christ. It is important for us to understand this, for we are going to examine a doctrine that has been a source of confusion for many saints: is Satan in heaven also? Is he actually standing before the throne of God?

Study the book of Revelation and in the description of God’s throne you will find no devil there (see chapter 4). Investigate Hebrews, chapter twelve, and in the discourse concerning the heavenly Jerusalem, again you will see no devil in heaven.

Where then is Satan? Jude tells us that the devil and his demons are imprisoned, spiritually chained with “eternal bonds” to “darkness [reserved] for the judgment” (Jude 1:6). Satan is imprisoned under darkness. The thought that the heavenly Father, “in [whom] there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5), would countenance the devil intruding upon the eternal worship, accusing the very church for whom His Son had died, is unimaginable.

How then do we explain the Scriptures which allude to a devil in heaven? While we freely admit we do not know all the ways in which Satan accuses man before God, we do offer one solution.

First, there are three realms known as heaven in the Bible. The most commonly identified as such is the eternal abode of God, angels and the redeemed. Next, the word heaven is used to describe the sky. “The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1 KJV). But when the Bible says that Satan is in heaven or the “heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:7-8; Luke 10:18), we believe it is with reference to the spirit realm, which because of sin and the fall of

man also has been invaded by darkness. This heaven is the spiritual territory from which Satan seeks to control the world. It would be foolish to assume we know more than we do about this dimension, but we know this: it is from here that Satan releases his war against the church.

If it is true that the devil is not in the highest heaven, how then does he accuse the saints before the throne of God? We began this discourse by explaining that Christ has positioned our spirits in Him before God's throne. While our spirits connect us to God, our bodies and souls are here on earth.

Although the devil does not have immediate access to God, he does have access to our thoughts and words. When we harbor sympathetic attitudes toward faultfinding, when we justify gossip and negative criticism, we are actually giving Satan the use of our mouths to accuse the saints before God!

We have wrongly assumed that our whispers spoken in darkness remained hidden even from God. We must realize that "all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13). It is not written, "whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light" (Luke 12:3)? God, who is Light, indeed hears the voice of the accuser, even in the guarded confidences spoken to a spouse or friend.

To be continued...