

Satan is the ruler over a powerful Kingdom of evil

"If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?" Matt. 12:26

The crucial battle between God's and Satan's kingdom is centered in the conflict between Christ and Satan—it was Christ's express purpose for coming into this world

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." 1 John 3:8

Satan's 1st defeat—Temptation in the wilderness

Matt. 4:1f; Luke 4:1f

Satan's 2nd defeat—During His ministry, Jesus was able to enter Satan's domain and destroy his work

"In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house." Mark 3:27

Satan's 3rd defeat—Decisive defeat was at the Cross

"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out." John 12:31

"...in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned." John 16:11

Jesus broke Satan's power over mankind

"...having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." Col. 2:14-15

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." Heb. 2:14-15

Satan's 4th defeat—When we accept Jesus by faith, we are rescued from Satan's kingdom and placed forever in God's Kingdom

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:13-14

Satan's 5th defeat—Satan is still allowed to operate as an usurper until his final imprisonment

A. *He rules over those who accept (even passively) his authority:*

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." Eph. 2:1-2

B. *He attacks those who have declared their allegiance to Christ:*

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." Eph. 6:11-13

C. *Though he can afflict God's people, we are assured he will never experience complete victory over us:*

"I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me." John 14:30

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Satan's 6th defeat—His doom is certain

"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." Luke 10:18

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" Matt. 25:41

"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Rev. 20:10

Reference: Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, vol. 5, p. 283