

Lambs & Lions

Power, Politics, and the Church

Satan, a Roaring Lion

1 Peter 5:8–9 (NIV®)

Be self-controlled and alert. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion** looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah

Revelation 5:4–5 (NIV®)

I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed**. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

I. The Power of the Spirit

Luke 4:14 (NIV®)

Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of the Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV®)

So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, **but by my Spirit**,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

A. War in Heaven . . . Conflict Beyond Time

Revelation 12:7–9 (NIV®)

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Luke 10:18–19 (NIV®)

He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

B. Jesus and His Angels

2 Thessalonians 1:6–8 (NIV®)

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when **the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels**. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

C. Armies of Angels (Not crowds, gatherings, or a collection of)

Psalms 103:20–21 (NIV®)

Praise the Lord, you **his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding**, who obey his word.

²¹ **Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts**, you his servants who do his will.

1 Samuel 17:45 (NASB95®)

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of **the Lord of hosts**, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted."

Revelation 19:11–16 (NIV®)

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ **The armies of heaven were following him**, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

Revelation 18:21 (NIV®)

Then **a mighty angel** picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again."

Revelation 7:1 (NIV®)

After this **I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth** to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.

Matthew 24:30–31 (NIV®)

"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹ And **he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds**, from one end of the heavens to the other."

Matthew 13:37–43 (NIV®)

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and **the enemy who sows them is the devil**. The harvest is the end of the age, and **the harvesters are angels**. ⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ **The Son of Man will send out his angels**, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

Prayer

Almighty God,

Forgive us for our unbelief and indifference. We humble ourselves and acknowledge You as the creator and sustainer of all things. Now, open our hearts and our eyes that we may have understanding and insight from You. Deliver us from deception. Holy Spirit, teach us. We are listening and we will follow. Give us now a boldness to believe, to serve, and to respond as never before. May the name of Jesus be lifted high, and may His people be strengthened. In Jesus' name, amen.