

but the full realization of the victory awaits His second coming.

We noticed that the claim that Satan is already bound rests upon a somewhat obscure statement in Matthew and its parallel in Luke. Over against this may be placed many passages in the gospels and in the epistles, showing that it is dangerous indeed to think of Satan as bound during this age, and unable now to deceive the nations.

Certainly Peter did not interpret the passage as indicating that Satan was already bound, for he considered him capable of filling the heart of Ananias and so deceiving him as to lead him to lie to the Holy Ghost (Acts 5:3). He did not write Christians that they should not worry about Satan, since he was securely bound, but rather exhorted them to be sober and vigilant "because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

If Paul thought Satan no longer able to deceive why did he warn us against him and his followers in 2 Cor. 11:13-14, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." If Paul thought Satan was already bound why did he speak of recovering people "out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Tim. 2:26) and urge all Christians to "put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11) Space fails us to quote his similar statements in Rom. 16:20, 2 Cor. 2:11, 2 Cor. 4:4, 2 Thess. 2:9, and 1 Timothy 3:6-7. If the statement of Christ in Matthew 12:26 properly means that Satan is already bound and unable to deceive, then Peter and