



Daily Verse and Comment

Luke 4:6

(6) And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

New International Version

Notice that the Devil has authority over the whole world, and he delegates authority to whomever he wishes.

Jesus refers to [Satan](#) as the "ruler of this world" ([John 12:31](#); [14:30](#); [16:11](#)). Christ recognizes Satan as the present ruler of [the world](#). However, Satan does not rule alone. He has a whole army of fallen angels, called demons, at his disposal. The apostle Paul refers to these evil rulers in his letter to the Ephesians. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" ([Ephesians 6:12](#)). These demons may number in the multiple millions (compare [Revelation 5:11](#) and [Revelation 12:3-4](#)).

[God](#) gives us an occasional glimpse in His Word about how these evil forces are used by Him to influence the rulers of nations. One such vignette occurs in I Kings 22. When Ahab, the evil ruler of Israel, is trying to decide whether to fight against Syria to retake Ramoth Gilead, Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, persuades him to consult his prophets first. All of his prophets tell him to proceed with the battle because God would give him a great victory. However, Micaiah, a true prophet of God, tells him that God had allowed an evil spirit to put lies into the mouths of Ahab's prophets. This is because it is God's purpose that Ahab be killed in the battle. Ahab shuns Micaiah, takes the advice of his own prophets, and is killed while fighting the Syrian armies.

In His prophecies regarding those things that will happen close to the [second coming](#) of [Jesus Christ](#), God clearly describes how He permits Satan to

influence the nations of the world in order to fulfill His end-time prophecies. In Revelation 12, God describes how there will be a great war in heaven sometime near the second coming of Jesus Christ. Satan and his demons will be cast down to the earth and will bring about great persecution on the church of God.

— Earl L. Henn

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[The Great Conspiracy](#)

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