



## Ephesians 2:2

(2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

*King James Version*

What is the primary aim of "the prince of the power of the air" ([Ephesians 2:2](#))? The abolition of man! Ever since [God](#) created the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden, [Satan](#) has been interested in nothing else but the eradication of humanity from his "proper domain" ([Jude 6](#)). He sees mankind, made after the God-kind ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)) with the potential of being born again into the God Family ([John 3:3-8](#); [Revelation 14:1-5](#); [20:4-6](#); etc.), as interlopers, squatters, and vagrants in his realm. He is painfully aware that God intends humanity to replace him and his demons as rulers of this planet, and he is fighting like a cornered rat to retain his place and power. Though he has already been personally defeated by [Jesus Christ](#) ([Hebrews 2:14](#)), he still believes he can win or at least frustrate and perhaps ruin God's plan by deceiving, attacking, destroying, and killing as many human beings as he can ([I Peter 5:8](#)). He especially desires to derail and exterminate as many of God's children as he can ([Revelation 12:17](#)).

Most people would probably laugh at such a notion, for it is not popular to believe in a being of ultimate evil like Satan the Devil. This is a very skeptical world. If people cannot see it, they do not believe it—and Satan has done a good job of deceiving the whole world into believing that he does not exist ([Revelation 12:9](#)). Now he can hide in plain sight and go virtually unnoticed. Mankind blithely ascribes his malicious works to "natural causes," "unfortunate accidents," "coincidences," "delusions," "mental illnesses," "misunderstandings," even "progress." Thus, the valueless educational methods of today are considered by the intelligentsia to be an evolutionary step forward for mankind—while the truth is that Satan has

merely handed Western civilization a time bomb calibrated to render millions of people spiritually deaf to God's call.

The serpent is more subtle than any beast of the field ([Genesis 3:1](#)), and Adam and Eve's descendants are proving to be just as gullible and sinful as their first parents—perhaps more so in our degenerate age. It is interesting that when Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, their eyes were opened (verse 7), but in reality, now they had their eyes wide shut.

It is only when we are called by God and our eyes opened by His [Holy Spirit](#) that we can see what is really going on in [the world \(II Corinthians 3:16\)](#). We are in a life-and-death struggle "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](#)). We have to "put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (verse 11). In this battle, we have to recognize the real enemy and his stratagems and to "resist him, steadfast in the [faith](#)" ([I Peter 5:9](#)).

No worries. It is just the fate of humanity on the line.

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

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