

John 12: Ruler of this World **07-20-16 PM**

"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

John 12 is the beginning of the end of the work of Jesus. The other Gospels record Jesus last message as being on the destruction of the temple (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21). John records Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then His proclamation: the time to be glorified has come.

It is important to remember the prophecy of Isaiah 53 when it comes to the language of Jesus' glorification. In particular, Isaiah 53:10-12 point to the idea that by destroying the anointed one, the Christ would actually be receiving His glory:

Isaiah 53:10-12 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

Let us focus for a moment on the language that speaks of the looting of the great and the strong. In Mark 3:27, Jesus states that *"no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house"*. Here he states that first, a strong man must be bound, and then one can take his possessions. He could this "strong man" be but Satan? In Revelation 20:1-2 we are told an Angel (Jesus) comes to bind Satan. Satan's strength is his authority of the world (Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 1 John 5:19). These passages tie Jesus statement in John 12 to this binding of Satan. We can also determine that the possessions of Satan are the believer (Romans 6:16-17, John 8:33-34).

The question then becomes "how is Satan bound"? We already see that his binding and the freeing of his prisoners are one and the same; consider in Revelation 12:7-9 we see Christ (as Michael) overcoming Satan from the heavenly places (spiritual realm; not heaven itself, Ephesians 2:6). In the next verse Satan's power is made clear when he is called "the accuser of our brethren". Satan's power is in sin. Since sins power is death (1 Corinthians 15:56-57), his power is called death in Hebrews 2:9-14.

Thus the binding of Satan was by overcoming the power of death in death itself. *"When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him"* (Colossians 2:15). This power is only removed for the one in Jesus Christ. As we see earlier, those in the world are still in his power (1 John 5:19). But Jesus *"gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father"* (Galatians 1:4)