

John the Baptist bare witness to the strength of Jesus when he said, "He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear." Satan may be mighty, but Jesus is the Almighty. Satan may have a name above every name on earth, a kingdom wider and more deep and enduring than any other prince of earth, but Jesus is raised far above principalities and powers, and might and dominion, and every name that is named both in this world and that which is to come. In faithfulness to God, and love to man, He rejected the offer of earthly dominion which Satan made, and His whole life and death bore increasing testimony to both; therefore has He purchased a dominion far broader, deeper, and more enduring than that which Satan offered. All things are placed under His feet—the Father hath said, "Sit Thou on My right hand until I make Thy foes Thy footstool." He sits not on the throne of earth, but on the throne of Heaven; yea, of the Heaven of Heavens—King of Kings and Lord of Lords, proclaiming to His faithful followers, "All power is given Me in Heaven and on earth," and telling them, therefore, to go into all the world with His Gospel—to attack the citadel of Satan everywhere in His all-powerful Name.

Not only is Jesus stronger than Satan, but He is seen "coming on him" as an enemy. For this purpose He left Heaven, for this purpose He became flesh. He was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. Apart from us altogether, and interest in our miserable case, there is an invincible antagonism between the Son of God and Satan. As Satan has done all he could in this fair world to bring dishonour on the Father, to perplex and mislead human souls, so the Son has come to vindicate the Father's honour in the teeth of the great slanderer—to obliterate, as it were, the slinky trail of the old serpent from God's good creation, to justify the ways of God to men. Thus He is utterly opposed to Satan. Satan is a liar, Jesus is the Truth; Satan is a murderer, Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life; Satan is a slanderer, Jesus is the Word of God; Satan is the king of darkness, Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness; Satan is the prince of the power of the air, working in wilful disobedience to all law in the hearts of men, Jesus is the Prince of Peace; Satan is a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, Jesus is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.

Jesus overcomes and disarms Satan.

Surely Satan was sorely baffled in the wilderness. There, formally and determinedly, he measured strength with the Messiah,