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THE STRONG MAN AND THE STRONGER:

A SERMON

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“When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.”—Luke xi. 21, 22.

HERE Satan, the Sinner, and the Saviour are spoken of under three figures. The strong man is Satan, and sinners are the goods which he keeps in peace; but the Saviour is the stronger man who overcame, disarmed, and spoiled him.

An instance of the strength of the strong man, and of the might of the Saviour, is given in the preceding verses, and more especially in the corresponding passage in Matthew (xii. 22, 23.) One possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb was brought to Jesus. At once He healed him, and so amazing was the miracle, that the people said, “Is not this the Son of David?” but the false Pharisees whispered, “He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.” Jesus knowing their thoughts, at once demonstrates the absurdity of supposing that Satan should become his own enemy by abetting the work of Christ.

Moreover, in addition to the patent absurdity of their position: