

How to Overcome the Adversary, Part 1

1) Psalm 35:1 NKJV Plead *my cause*, O Lord, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me.

a. Where does the Lord plead our cause?

2) Psalm 82:1 God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.

a. Who are the gods that God judges?

b. Why is it important to remember that God is a judge?

3) 1John 2:1 - 2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

a. Advocate is a legal term. What does it mean, and why is that important to us?

4) Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

a. Where is the throne of grace, and how do we come boldly?

5) Genesis 1:26 - 28

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

6) Mark 16:17 – 18

¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

a. Where can we exercise our authority directly over the adversary?

7) Zechariah 3:1 – 8

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! *Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?*”

³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.” ⁵ And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him.

And the Angel of the Lord stood by. ⁶ Then the Angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying, ⁷ “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here. ⁸ ‘Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.

- a. Satan is a legal title. What does that mean?
- b. Who rebukes the adversary in the heavenly realm?
- c. Do we have to be clean to come before God’s throne? How can we come then?
- d. How do we keep God’s commands in the new covenant?
- e. Who is the Branch and how does He insure that we have charge in God’s courts?

8) Luke 18:1 – 8

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ² saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

³ Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ ⁴ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”

⁶ Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷ And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

- a. Is prayer important for God’s legal system? Would faith make a difference here?

9) Luke 22:31 – 32 KJV

³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you (Satan has demanded you be put on trial), that he may sift you as wheat: ³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

- a. Where did Satan want to put Peter on trial?

10) Ephesians 3:8 – 12 (Church: Ekklesia in Greek, called out ones, elected assembly)

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

- a. Who are the Ekklesia, and why is the word *church* a limiting distinction?
- b. What is now made known to principalities and powers in heavenly places?
- c. Who can now come boldly with access through faith to God and for what purpose?
- d. See the correct translation of ekklesia in Acts 19:39 “But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly”
- e. “What is Ecclesia” by Ben Williams, The Oxford Dictionary also has an interesting entry under “congregation”: ...used by Tyndale* as a translation of “ecclesia” in the New Testament, and by the sixteenth century reformers instead of “church.” (*William Tyndale was the fifteenth century reformer and translator -- murdered by the church)

Tyndale was willing to die for God's word and truth. He didn't like the word "church." Instead, he used "congregation." Now, that tells us something! When you consider the fact that "ecclesia" was "a civil body politic," this is strong proof that the Christian ecclesia we read about in the New Testament was an independent civil body of Christians -- independent from human kings and governors. They wanted freedom to serve King Jesus. They weren't building and attending churches! Please understand. These weren't churches -- these were ecclesias! It's important that you stop using the wrong word -- and the wrong meaning.