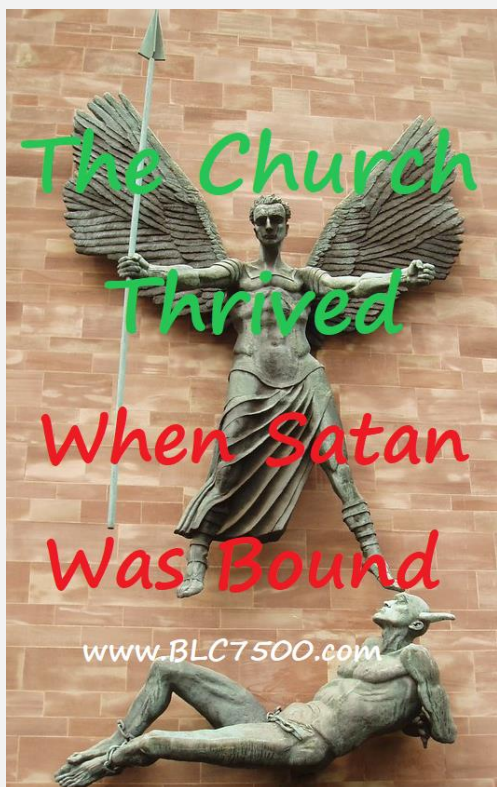


Second Sunday of Easter – 2022

Saturday, 4/23 at 4:00 | Sunday, 4/24 at 9:00



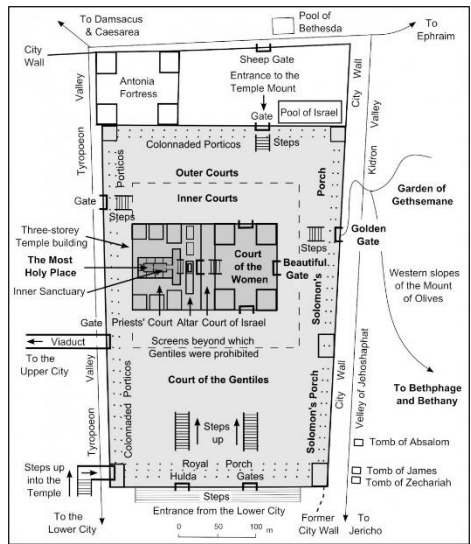
The image is Michael who bound Satan. Since only the Son of God can defeat Satan, *Michael must be the Son of God!* Read about Michael defeating Satan in [Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; John 12:31; Revelation 12:7-9; 20:1-3.](#)

Text: Acts 5:12-20 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: What happened to Satan when Jesus said, “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30)? **Satan was bound!** The Bible says: “...I saw [an angel](#) [Jesus] coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and **bound** him for a thousand years...” (Rev. 20:1-2 NAS).

Today we are in **Acts chapter 5**, which was a time when Satan was **bound!** **Acts 5** took place about two years after Jesus’ resurrection, when many were hearing the good news and many were being brought to trust in Jesus for heaven!

1. **Signs and Wonders:** <sup>12</sup> And at the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders [miracles] were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico [the area on the east side of the temple complex]. <sup>13</sup> But none of the rest [the other teachers, maybe like Nicodemus] **dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem.** // What was going on back then? There were **obvious differences between the believers and the non-believers** and the non-believers had **much respect for those who did believe.**



2. **Multitudes Converted:** <sup>14</sup> ... [more and] more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*... // During the two years after Jesus was raised to life, how quickly did the number of believers grow? On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41), **3,000** were added to the believers; then (Acts 4:4), the men alone numbered **5,000**, so there may have been **30,000** – if the women and children would have been counted; now, here, **multitudes were added** – that is, the number was so great that they could not be counted!

3. **Everyone Healed:** <sup>15</sup> ...they even carried the sick out into the streets, and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. <sup>16</sup> And also the people from the cities in

the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits; and they were all being healed. // Why were people carried into the streets? Lenski wrote: “The sick were arranged in this manner in order that they might be directly in the path of Peter so that he could not avoid seeing them and could heal them without losing time by going to their homes” (209). Also, the news about the healing spread and people from other cities brought their sick and demon-possessed **and all were healed!**

4. **Jealousy and Arrest:** <sup>17</sup> But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees) [who controlled the Sanhedrin, which was the group of Jewish leaders who ruled under the Romans], and they were filled with jealousy [because so many were listening to the apostles and believing in Jesus]; <sup>18</sup> and they laid hands on the apostles, and put them in a public jail. // Then and today, the general thought is that **criminals are arrested**, so their arrest was intended to ♦disgrace and ♦discredit them.
5. **Divine Intervention:** <sup>19</sup> But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, <sup>20</sup> “Go your way, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this [new] Life [in Christ].” // Two years earlier, the Jewish leaders took action to put Jesus to death – **BUT GOD RAISED HIM!** Now, here, they put all the apostles in jail, **BUT GOD SENT AN ANGEL TO SET THEM FREE** – so they could continue telling the people about Jesus! **God is in control!**

**Conclusion:** At the beginning of this sermon, I mentioned about Satan being bound on Good Friday. Then, in the body of the sermon, we learned about ♦God’s powerful work and

‡the amazing increase in the number of believers. But now, going back to *Revelation 20:3*, the Bible says that Satan “should not deceive the nations any longer, **until the thousand years were completed**; after these things **he must be released for a short time.**”

- What are “the thousand years”? They **symbolize** the complete period **from** when Satan was bound **until** he was released.
- When? Possibly from AD 30 to around 1800.
- Why 1800? That was the time of the Enlightenment, which “**was an intellectual movement in the eighteenth century that emphasized reason and science.**”<sup>1</sup>
- Why is the Enlightenment a problem? It influences less and less people to take the Bible to **mean what it says.**

It is very possible that we are living in the “**short time**” when Satan is loose. What is the evidence? **Widespread** ‡denial of God as creator, ‡immorality, ‡abortion, ‡breakdown of the family unit, and ‡suppression of God’s saving truth – *just to name a few* (see *2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3-4*).

**Nevertheless**, 😊God will never forsake us (*Heb. 13:5*), 😊Jesus is with us always (*Mt. 28:20*), and 😊the HS who lives within us is *greater* than the forces of evil in the world (*1 John 4:4*)! So let us be at peace, live with courage, and tell others about Jesus!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, *You are the winner and*, when You return, *You will bind Satan forever*, so ‡**fill** us, ‡**guide** us, ‡**move** us, and ‡**use** us to do *Your will in this fallen world!*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/colonial-america/colonial-north-america/a/the-enlightenment>