

“Whisperings from the Back of the Courtroom”

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Daniel 7:9-14

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Typically, Lawyers are not funny, unless by accident. Case in point: The following questions from lawyers were taken from official court records:

- Now, doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, in most cases he just passes quietly away and doesn't know anything about it until the next morning?
- Q: What happened then? A: He told me, he says, 'I have to kill you because you can identify me.' Q: Did he kill you?
- Was it you or your brother that was killed in the war?
- Q: Do you know how far pregnant you are now? A: I'll be three months on November 8. Q: Apparently, then, the date of conception was August 8? A: Yes Q: What were you doing at the time?
- Q: Do you recall approximately the time that you examined the body of Mr. Edington at the Rose Chapel? A: It was in the evening. The autopsy started about 8:30 p.m. Q: And Mr. Edington was dead at the time, is that correct? A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy!

Apparently not all lawyers are as sharp as Perry Mason.

Several years ago I served as a juror. It was an interesting experience. I learned, for example, that more than just presenting facts and letting them stand on their own, a good lawyer will attempt to persuade the jury; to sway their opinion and their attitude either against or with the defendant.

I find it alarming that there is one who would stand before God the Father and do the same. More than just presenting the facts, the Accuser not only tells of the wrongs I have committed but also questions my character and my attitude; my love for God.

Daniel tells of his glimpse into this courtroom and about the boastful words of the Accuser, the Satan. **“⁹I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, His hair like purest wool.**

He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, ¹⁰and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened. ¹¹I continued to watch because I could hear the little horn's boastful speech.” ¹

(Daniel 7:9-11a) The one called Satan, the Accuser, continues to stand before God and accuse you. You, who try to be so faithful and true. With a hand trebling in anger and hatred, he points out your flaws, he tells of how unworthy you are to receive mercy and grace.

The trial has begun. The Judge is seated at the throne. Books are laid open that record your deeds. As the evidence is presented, and no defense is found, the Accuser is poised to triumph. His accusations are that you, whom God loves, are unworthy and unclean; that you deserve death.

Is there no one to speak on your behalf? Is there no one to stand with you as Satan hurls insult and accusations your way? Are you really left defenseless?

Cantata: “One Small Child”

As Satan stands to accuse, there are whisperings heard from the back of the courtroom. One who looks like a Man begins to make His way to the front. In stunned silence, the Crowd of Witnesses look on as He approaches the Judge, the Ancient of Days, and whispers something in His ear. ¹³As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. ¹⁴He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal - it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.” ² (Daniel 7:13-14)

What many people have seen as just a small child, the Satan sees as his greatest threat. What is described to us as a humble and lowly birth in this world was an event that announced the certain end to the Accuser. In the Spiritual world,

¹Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (Da 7:9).

²Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (Da 7:13).

this was no small event and Jesus was not just some small Child. God becoming flesh was an event that was long foretold and an event that shook the world we cannot see.

When the son of Man approached the throne in Heaven, Satan knew he was defeated. For this Son who was given to us whispered into the Father's ear that He would bear the punishment; He would pay the penalty for the one standing accused. And any chance of Satan proving that we do not deserve the Father's love was destroyed the night the Child was born.

Revelation 12 tells of how great a threat this Child was to Satan. "Then I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. I saw a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born." ³ (Revelation 12"1-4

Satan knew this was not just some small child. This was the One who had been promised to stand with us in that great day of judgment. No longer can he point out our sin because it has been washed away by the blood of the Child. No longer can he point to our lack of righteousness because we wear a righteousness that is not our own but of the Child.

For those who call the Child Lord and Savior, Satan can make no accusations. In the court room, he has been defeated by the Child whose birthday we will celebrate on Christmas day. "7 Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. ⁸ And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. ⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels." ⁴ Revelation 12:7-9)

³Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (Re 12:1).

⁴Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (Re 12:7).

The Satan may not be able to stand and accuse us today, but he can cause us to question or doubt the Son of Man. He does what he can to take our eyes off of this Child which was given to us. He causes us to focus on other things; to place our hope in that which cannot sustain us. He works through those who would tell us not to believe the Christmas story or to question the Virgin Birth. He distracts us with packages, boxes, and bags. He throws everything our way in hopes that we miss the whisperings taking place in the back of the courtroom where the Heavenly Host proclaims that this Son of Man is our only hope, our only defense.

In light of what this Child will accomplish for people like you and me, is it any wonder the whole multitude of Angels that appeared to the shepherds sang Glory to God; that they longed to announce the Joy to the world? This Christmas, may you see more than just a small Child in a manger. May you see the One who has come in your defense; the Son of Man who stands with you before the throne of God.