

**A great privilege**

From all these examples (and there are undoubtedly more if we stop and think about it) we can clearly see in this wonderful verse, Hebrews 4:16, the great privilege that is ours in Christ of drawing near in faithful prayer. We remember that, in contrast, under the Law given through Moses, only the high priest could come before the mercy seat in the most holy place, and that only on one day in a year. No other Israelite had access to this great privilege; but we have unlimited access at any place and any time, and so once again we see the superiority of our Master to the Law.

Also, we understand through our examination of the verse that our heavenly Father's outlook is one of grace towards those in Christ, and thus no circumstance is too small or too trivial to bring before our God in prayer. Finally, this verse beautifully displays to us the truth of what we read in Romans 8:31-39:

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that

spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall He not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God That justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

## Looking at the devil and Satan

John Nicholls

***Better the Devil You Know.***

**Malcolm Edwards.**

**Seventeen-page booklet.**

**Available at £1 per copy (£1.50 inclusive of postage) from Brother Alan Goswell, 51 Westborough Drive, Halifax, HX2 7QN. Tel. 01422 358508. Email [timag@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:timag@tiscali.co.uk).**

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**Details of this and other publications by Brother Edwards are to be found on <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/timag/>.**

**B**ETTER *the Devil You Know* is the title of a seventeen-page pamphlet written by Brother Malcolm Edwards from the Boronia ecclesia in Victoria, Australia. It is designed for friends interested to know what the devil and Satan of the Bible really are. When we talk to friends, or indeed our children, about this subject, we all too often get bogged down in detailed explanations about particular verses and lose the broader picture. Added to which, the Scriptures involved

are frequently symbolic or figurative, and again it is easy to lose the thread of one's argument in attempting to explain the symbolism.

Brother Edwards' pamphlet, however, is clearly written in an engaging style, and he moves on from topic to topic in a satisfyingly brisk manner. Perhaps his introductory paragraph gives a good flavour of the pamphlet:

"Most of us would recognize that the saying, 'Better the devil you know than the one you don't know' has nothing really to do with sin and temptation; it simply means that one should be careful not to exchange one's current problem with an even worse one. However, there is behind it the concept of a malevolent supernatural opponent seeking to influence us to do evil, and with some people it is a very serious consideration indeed. The aim of this booklet is to investigate the whole subject of the Devil and Satan from the viewpoint of Scripture. Whether the devil we identify is the one you know or one you didn't know is for you, the reader, to decide".

After this introduction Brother Edwards maintains the interest of his readers by considering many place names with "Devil" in them, and

then some of the 'devils' mentioned in myths and legends, as well as in a play. He moves to the origin of the devil in Genesis, and discusses succinctly Lucifer in Isaiah 14, the serpent in Eden, and the war in heaven in Revelation 12. This section will be particularly helpful when talking to Jehovah's Witnesses about the devil; indeed, this pamphlet is ideal to get them to read. (They will probably do this and then get one of their elders to visit you!) Next, explanations of the meaning of 'devil' and 'Satan' are considered, along with associated terms like 'Belial', 'Beelzebub' and 'Mammon'. The author's style is impressive; his sentences are carefully constructed and he is able to convey much in a few words.

Satan in the Old Testament is the next subject, and this, of course, includes a careful exposition of the Satan in the book of Job and the Satan in Zechariah 3. The devil and Satan of Revelation 12 is looked at, along with the general usage of the terms in the New Testament. Getting towards

the end of the pamphlet, there is a section entitled, "Sin, the adversary within", and here an interesting citation is made from Dr A. Cohen's book, *Everyman's Talmud*, which strongly agrees with New Testament teaching. Brother Edwards concludes his pamphlet by emphasising that we need to "fully identify our enemy so that we can plan our strategy to combat and defeat him". There is a small appendix, which briefly explains other difficult passages about Satan and the devil in the New Testament.

All in all this is one of the most readable accounts the reviewer has seen on this topic. It is well researched and carefully written. Not only could it be given with confidence to our interested friends, but senior Sunday School scholars, and also, perhaps, lecturing brethren, will find it an excellent resource. Brother Edwards has written other pamphlets, and the reviewer intends to obtain copies in the expectation that they will be as good as this one.

Two-part article

## The time periods of Daniel 12 (1)

Stephen Hughes

*The time periods of Daniel 12 have always fascinated students of Bible prophecy. This study presents some new ideas on their fulfilment, linking them with other prophecies, and enabling us to look forward to the establishment of the Kingdom during the next two decades.*

**T**HIS TWO-PART article follows on from my previous studies that have appeared in *The Testimony*, firstly on the Seventy Years Prophecy of Jeremiah,<sup>1</sup> then the Seventy Weeks Prophecy of Daniel,<sup>2</sup> and finally the Olivet Prophecy.<sup>3</sup> These articles show that the Seventy Years Prophecy of Jeremiah connects with the Seventy Weeks Prophecy of Daniel, which in turn connects with the Olivet Prophecy. In this article we turn our attention to the time periods of Daniel 12, which seem to connect with the Olivet Prophecy. For example, Daniel 12:7 refers to the end of the Jewish Diaspora, and in Luke

21:24 we read about Jerusalem being liberated from Gentile control.

In this study we also look at connections between the 1,260, 1,290 and 1,335 time periods of Daniel 12 and the other time periods in Daniel. Many interpretations of the time periods in Daniel 12 have been presented before by various authors. As in the previous studies, we will proceed on the basis that it is possible to gain some understanding of these time periods, otherwise they would not be there (Rom. 15:4). As also in the previous studies, we will attempt to use commonly accepted historical dates that are readily accessible in commonly used reference books. Not many new dates will be presented in this study; in most cases we will be looking at

1. "The Seventy-Year Prophecy of Jeremiah", Sept. 1992, p. 340; Oct. 1992, p. 373.
2. "The Seventy Weeks Prophecy", Jun. 1998 to Nov. 1998.
3. "The Olivet Prophecy", Jun. 2004 to Nov. 2004.