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BYU Education Week 2015

2-The Battle Ground: Your Body and Spirit and Mind – “What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

(Matthew 16:26)

Recognizing the Evil Strategies of the Adversary

**Strategy for War in the Last Days –  
Successfully Combating Satan**

# We Are All Enlisted Jeffrey R. Holland

When we rehearse the grandeur of Joseph Smith's First Vision, we sometimes gloss over the menacing confrontation that came just prior to it, a confrontation intended to destroy the boy if possible but in any case to block the revelation that was to come. We don't talk about the adversary any more than we have to, and I don't like talking about him at all, but the experience of young Joseph reminds us of what every man, including every young man, in this audience needs to remember. Number one, Satan, or Lucifer, or the father of lies—call him what you will—is real, the very personification of evil. His motives are in every case malicious, and he convulses at the appearance of redeeming light, at the very thought of truth... (7:56) **Now, brethren, we speak boldly to you because anything more subtle doesn't seem to work. We speak boldly because Satan is a real being set on destroying you,** and you face his influence at a younger and younger age. So we grab you by the lapels and shout as forcefully as we know how:

*Hark! the sound of battle sounding loudly and clear;*

*Come join the ranks! Come join the ranks! (8:30)*

7:49-8:30 HOLLAND

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2011/10/we-are-all-enlisted?lang=eng#watch=video>



# Who is Satan?

We must know the enemy

**REMEMBER:**

***I am no  
devil, for  
there is  
none...***

2 Nephi 28:22



# Who is Satan?





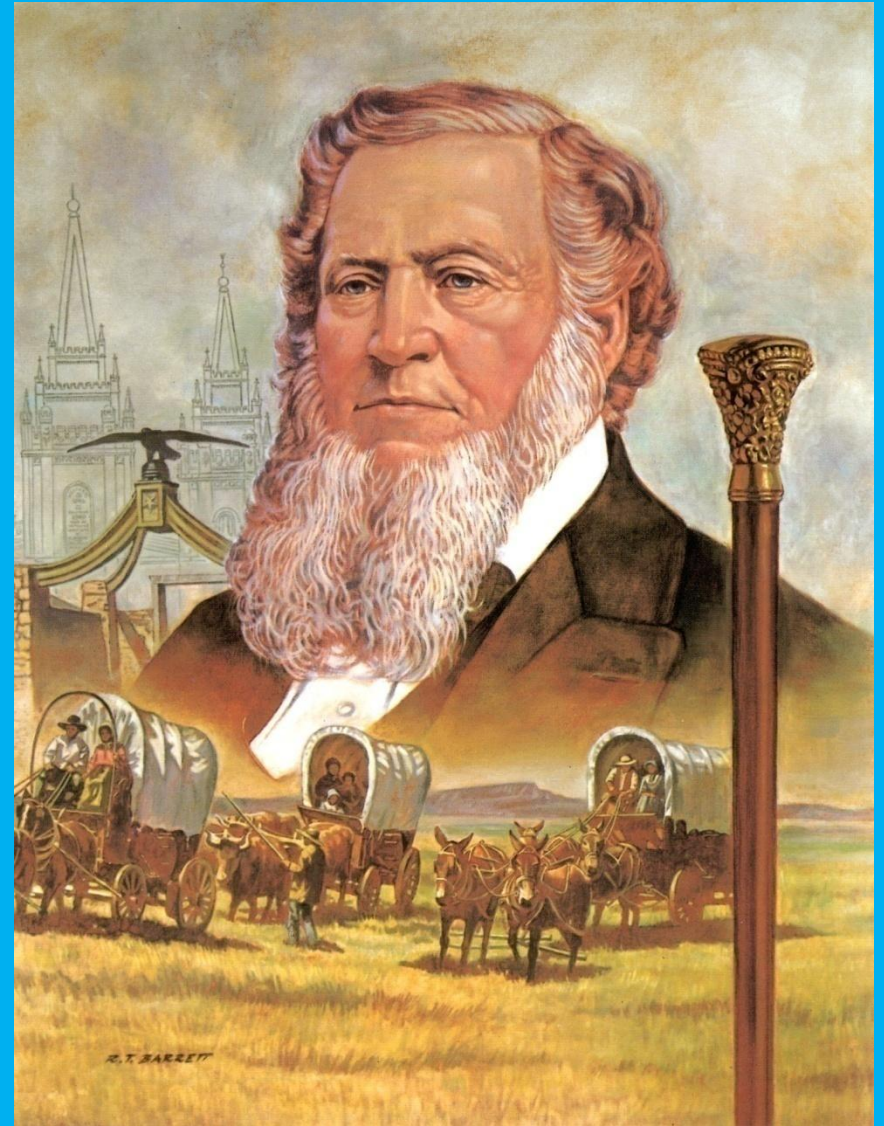
**Satan's  
Special Forces**





**.. It is  
important  
to "*study . . .  
evil, and its  
consequences.*"**

(Discourses of Brigham  
Young, comp. John A. Widtsoe  
[Salt Lake City: Deseret Book  
Co., 1941], p. 257.)



**Brigham Young**

Lest Satan should  
get an advantage of  
us: for we are not ignorant of  
his devices.

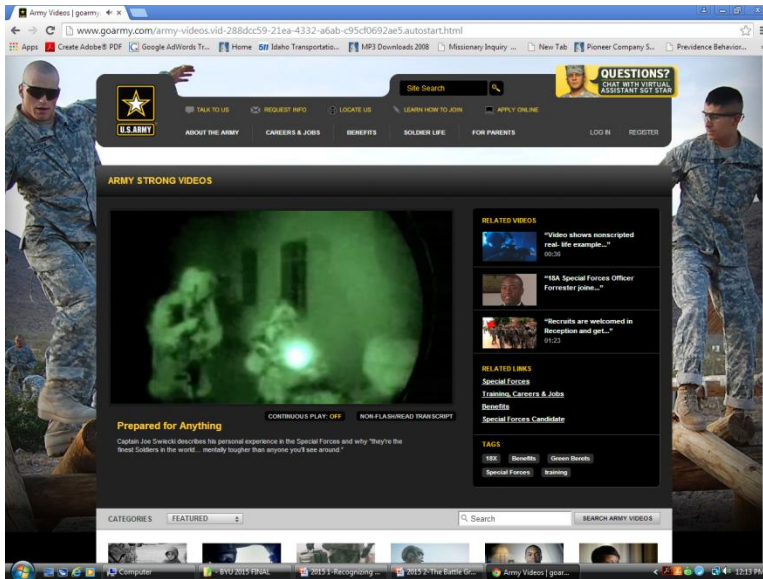
Paul 2 Cor. 2:11



# Special Forces

are military units specially trained to perform unconventional missions.

THIS:



NOT THIS:



**“Satan’s special forces are well-planned, well-financed, and well-armed.”**

<http://www.goarmy.com/army-videos.vid-288dcc59-21ea-4332-a6ab-c95cf0692ae5.autostart.html>

**dr rick**

**SATAN'S  
SPECIAL  
FORCES**

I know  
dr rick  
from the  
preexistence....



President Spencer W. Kimball

Lucifer and his followers **KNOW**  
the habits, weaknesses, and  
vulnerable spots of  
**EVERYONE** and take  
advantage of them to lead us to  
spiritual destruction.

A cartoon illustration of a hand pointing towards the text. The hand is drawn in a simple, sketchy style with brown skin tones. The index finger is extended, pointing directly at the word 'EVERYONE' in the text. The hand is positioned in the center of the page, overlapping the text.

*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1969, pp. 218–19.

# Evil Spirits "Called to Serve"

An example of an evil spirit assigned a particular duty is found in Alma, where we learn that Korihor was possessed by a "*lying spirit*," a spirit given the specific assignment by Satan to further his cause by the weapon of "lying." (See: [Alma 30:42](#)) Or how about the spirits skilled with this weapon "*the spirit of contention*." (See: [3 Nephi 11:29](#)) We can safely imagine that Satan has great charisma. He is eloquent, articulate, convincing, and a fantastic leader. He has trained many "special forces" - like Sherem ([Jacob 7:4](#)), Korihor ([Alma 30:42,53](#)), and Zeezrom ([Alma 11:21](#)) "*who was expert in the devices of the devil.*"

**What are  
Satan's  
Devices /  
Weapons?**

**And finally, I cannot tell you all the things whereby (Satan may attack you) ye may commit sin; for there are divers ways and means, even so many that I cannot number them.**

**Mosiah 4:29**



**DECEPTION** Synonyms: *trick, stratagem, ruse, wile, hoax, imposture.*

**Moses 1:16** Get thee hence, Satan; **deceive me not**; for God said unto me:...

**D & C 52:14** And again, I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be **deceived**; for Satan is abroad in the land, and **he goeth forth deceiving** the nations—

**D & C 46:8** Wherefore, beware lest ye are **deceived**; and that ye may not be **deceived** ...

# Special Forces



DECPETION



Weapon –  
PLEASURE  
IN SIN

How can it be wrong and feel so good?

- "...to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;"  
(Hebrews 11: 25)

- if your life "is built upon the works of men, or upon the works of the devil, verily I say unto you they have joy in their works for a season. .  
." (3 Nephi 27:11)

- "the Lord would not always suffer them to take happiness in sin." (Mormon 2:13)

- "**Eat, drink and be     ?**" (See Luke 12:19)

*Almost always the initial consequence of sin is pleasure and the "**wicked prosper**" (See [Jeremiah 12: 1](#)).*

*Spencer W. Kimball wrote "Whoever said that sin was not fun? Whoever claimed that Lucifer was not handsome, persuasive, easy, friendly? **Sin is attractive and desirable.**"(Faith Precedes the Miracle, Deseret Book, 1972, pg. 229.)*

The "FIRE" of sexual relations in the BODY TEMPLE reacts the same.

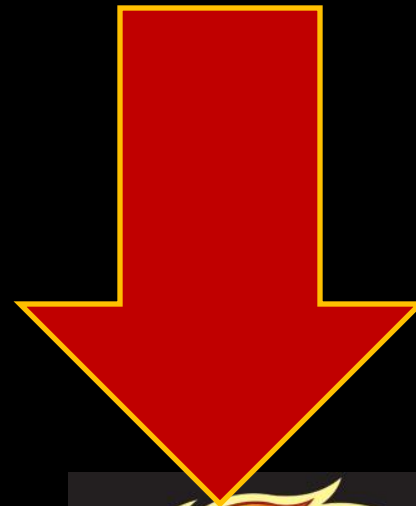


**BODY EXPERIENCES**

**=**

**JOY  
PLEASURE**

Similar chemicals as found in cocaine.



**SPIRIT EXPERIENCES**

**STRONGER BONDING  
MORE SPIRITUAL**

**GUILT & SHAME**

# 15 Year old Josephine



*“I think I’m bi ... It felt so good...”*

# PACIFY and LULL

Synonyms: *placate, appease, calm (down), conciliate. Calm or send to sleep.*

[2 Nephi 28:21](#) And others will he **pacify**, and **lull** them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil **cheateth their souls**, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.

# Special Forces



Weapon –  
DESENSITIZE  
TO SIN



PACIFY & LULL



# Lull and Pacify Doctor Joe



**“We never had sexual relations. I was always worthy to go to the temple.”**

# Lull and Pacify

Sadly, some young men and young women in the Church today ignore “things as they really are” and neglect eternal relationships **for digital distractions, diversions, and detours that have no lasting value.** My heart aches when a young couple—sealed together in the house of the Lord for time and for all eternity by the power of the holy priesthood—experiences marital difficulties because of the **addicting effect of excessive video gaming or online socializing.** A young man or woman may waste countless hours, postpone or forfeit vocational or academic achievement, and ultimately sacrifice cherished human relationships because of mind- and **spirit-**  
**numbing** video and online games.

Things as They Really Are, June 2010  
BY ELDER DAVID A. BEDNAR

# Special Forces - LEAD



**LEAD Synonyms: *accompany, precede, guide, persuade, convince, head, vanguard.***

**3 Nephi 2:2** Imagining up some vain thing in their hearts, that it was wrought by men and by the power of the devil, **to lead away** and deceive the hearts of the people; and thus did Satan get possession of the hearts of the people again, insomuch that he did **blind their eyes** and **lead them** away to believe that the doctrine of Christ was a foolish and a vain thing.

**Moses 4:4** And he became Satan, yea, even **the devil**, the father of all lies, **to deceive** and to blind men, and to **lead them** captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice

# Special Forces - Flattery



**FLATTERY** Synonyms: *praise, adulation, compliments, honeyed words; fawning, cajolery; informal sweet talk, soft soap, snow job, buttering up.*

[D & C 10:29](#) Now, behold, they have altered these words, because Satan saith unto them: He hath deceived you—and thus **he flattereth them away to do iniquity, ....**

[2 Nephi 28:22](#) And behold, others he **flattereth away**, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none.

[Jacob 7:4](#) ...he (Sherem) could use **much flattery** and much power of speech, ***according to the power of the devil.***

Note how the King-Men took control of Zarahemla from Governor Pahoran.

*Alma 61:4*

...for they have used **great  
flattery** and they have **led  
away** the hearts of many  
people...

# Special Forces



**Weapon –  
DIRECT  
INPUT  
INTO MIND & Heart**



**WHISPERETH  
IN YOUR EAR**



## SATAN INFLUENCES THOUGHTS

Let's start with a couple of scriptures:

*And behold others he flattereth away and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none – **and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains....** ([2 Nephi 28:22](#))*

Following the feast of the Passover, for example, the devil “**put into the heart of Judas Iscariot ... to betray [Jesus]**” ([John 13:2](#)). During the translation of the Book of Mormon, Satan “**put it into [the] hearts**” of wicked men to destroy the work of the Restoration ([D&C 10:10–12](#)). And one more “**For Satan putteth it into their hearts to anger...**” ([D&C 63:28](#)).

Put thoughts into our minds.

*“And behold others he (SATAN) flattereth away and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none – and thus he **whispereth in their ears**, until he grasps them with his awful chains....”*

*2 Nephi 28:22*



Joseph Fielding Smith said:

***"We should be on guard to resist Satan's advances. He has the power to place thoughts in our minds and to whisper to us in unspoken impressions to entice us to satisfy our appetites or desires, and in various other ways he plays upon our weaknesses and desires."***

([Answers to Gospel Questions](#), 3:81). (However, remember Satan cannot KNOW our thoughts - [D & C 6:15](#))

# 81 year old High Priest in Sacrament Meeting



Satan uses **every possible device** to degrade and enslave every soul. He attempts to distort and corrupt everything created for the good of man, sometimes by diluting that which is good, sometimes by camouflaging that which is evil. ... **But weakness is not our only vulnerability. Satan can also attack us where we think we are strong—in the very areas where we are proud of our strengths.** He will approach us through the greatest talents and spiritual gifts we possess. If we are not wary, Satan can cause our spiritual downfall by corrupting us through our strengths as well as by exploiting our weaknesses. I will illustrate this truth with several examples.

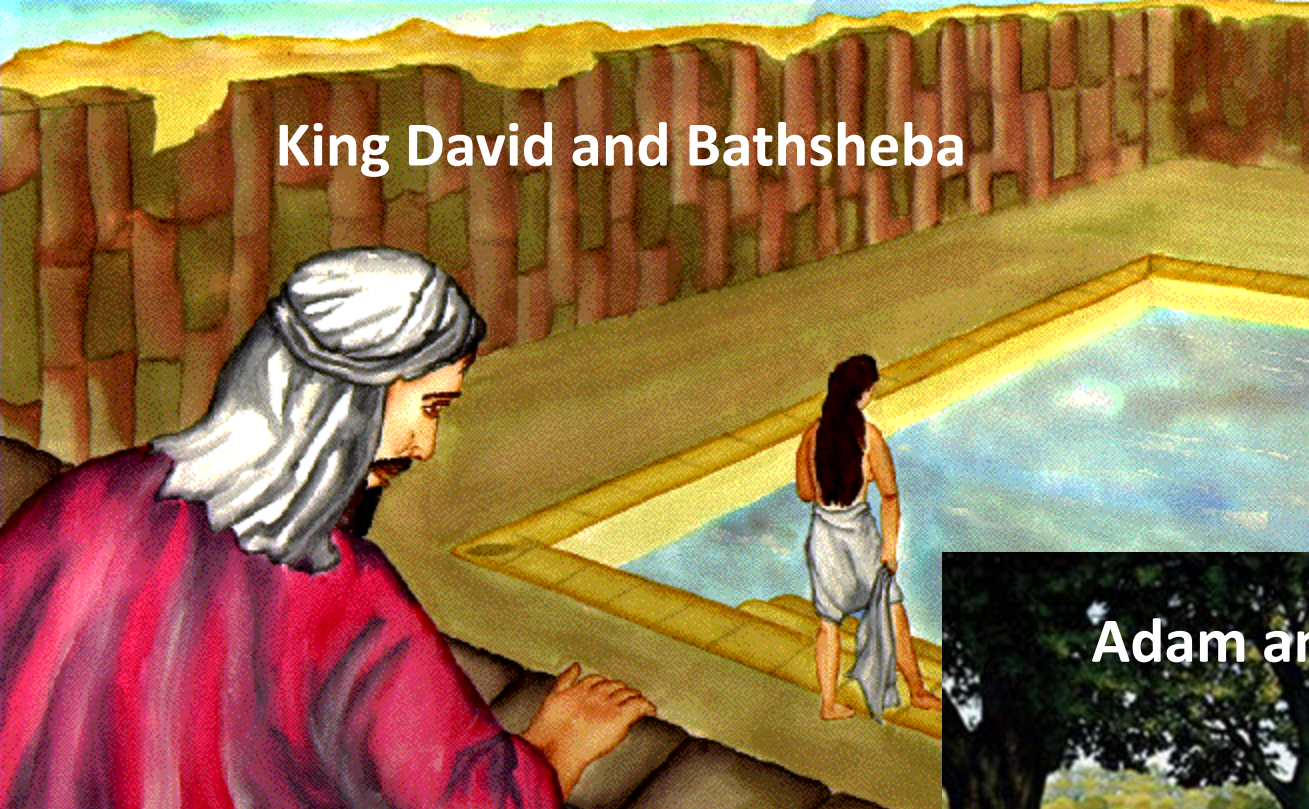
*Dallin H. Oaks*

*Our Strengths Can Become Our Weaknesses October 1994, Ensign*

He's not smart because he's the devil.  
He's smart because he is old. (And has  
knowledge of the pre-existence.)

James Faust, *The Great Imitator*

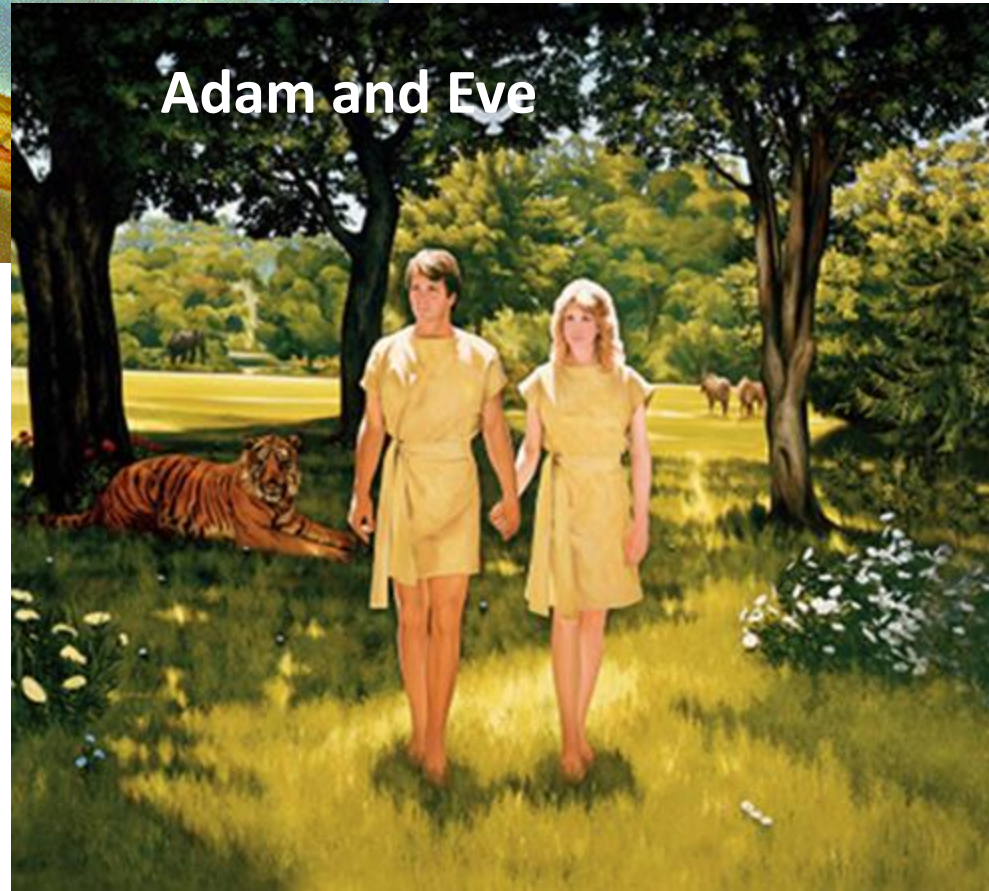
## King David and Bathsheba



2 Nephi 28:34  
2 Nephi 15

***Think how good you would be  
after thousands of years of  
practice. And having  
immediate and ongoing  
access to finest evil spirits  
of history.***

## Adam and Eve



# Satan's Arsenal

DECEPTION

PACIFY and LULL

LEAD

FLATTERY

DIRECT INPUT INTO MIND & Heart

ETC

ALL result in ...



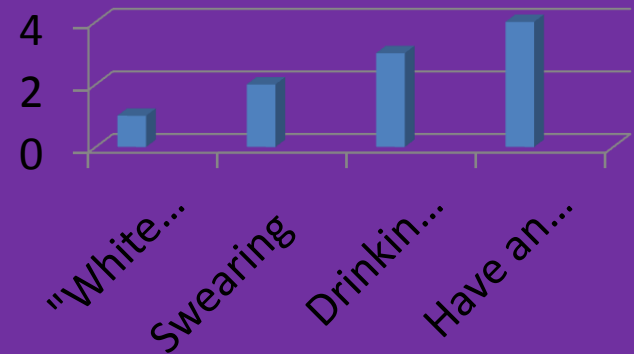
# SIN.

The Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance (D&C 1:31).

No unclean thing can dwell with God (1 Nephi 10:21).

*One who sins is unable to dwell in the presence of Heavenly Father.*

How much “sin” is required to keep you out of the Celestial Kingdom with Christ?



What if....

**Satan's soul purpose was....**



**To get you to sin! Any sin!**

# Consequence of sin...

1. Keeps me from living with Heavenly Father
2. Overthrows Heavenly Father's Kingdom

*For the Lord hath said: This is my church, and I will establish it; **and nothing shall overthrow it, save it is the transgression of my people.** Mosiah 27:13*

Satan's goal is to persuade you to sin,  
And afterwards persuade you not to repent.

# Unrepentant Sin

-once sinned no way back.

# Role Play



- Preexistence ALL spirits existed.
- Council in heaven-two plans presented.
- War. Satan lost.
- 1/3 of ALL spirits ever created –CAST OUT and Satan LED them.
- After being cast out Satan was CURSED by God.
- 2/3 of ALL spirits chose Christ's plan remained in pre-existence and began to populate the earth.
- Current SMALL % of us have been chosen to WAR against Satan in these last day on Earth.
- SATAN's SPECIAL FORCES are waring against US!
- How powerful and skilled are Satan's Forces after 7,000 years / an eternity of practice?

THE END

# History of Satan

**And it was given unto Satan to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.** (Revelation 13:7)

And **the great dragon was cast out**, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was **cast out into the earth**, and his angels were cast out with him (Revelations 12:9)

And I, the Lord God, said unto the serpent: Because thou hast done this thou **shalt be cursed** (Moses 4:20)

**Woe to the inhabitants of the earth** and of the sea! **for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath**, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (Revelations 12:12)