

Did Adam and Eve lose dominion over this world?

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Some key background truths:

- God is eternal, He is the Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end).
- Jesus is God and is from the beginning. (Jn 1:1-3)
- All things were created by/through Jesus. (Jn 1:3, Col 1:16, Heb 1:2)
- Jesus is the head over all rule and authority. (Col 2:10, Eph 1:20-23, Phil 2:9-11, 1 Pet 3:22)
- Jesus said that all authority has been given to Him on heaven and earth. (Mat 28:18)
- Man was created in the image of God. (Gen 1:27)
- Man was given dominion over the earth. (Gen 1:28)
- Man’s rule was reaffirmed after the flood. (Gen 9:2)
- Man continues to have dominion over the earth as David writes. (Ps 8:6-8)
- The earth has been given to man. (Ps 115:16)
- Hebrews 2:5-8 references Psalm 8 and also reads in the present tense, not only prior to the fall. This passage also has a different purpose. The point is that the world, present and future was not subject to angels. People were elevating angels and the writer of Hebrews is addressing this issue. His point is that Jesus is the one that everything is subject to.
- Jesus spoke much about the kingdom of heaven and that it was not of this world. (Lk 17:21, Jn 18:36)
- Satan’s kingdom is demonic. (Lk 11:17-18)

In Ezekiel, we get a bit of information on Satan and what happened in the beginning.

The passage is set with regard to the judgement of the city of Tyre. In chapter 28, there is some additional information where Ezekiel describes Satan, who is behind the leader of Tyre. There is the parallel of the pride and arrogance of the leader of Tyre and Satan. In 28:12-17, the focus shifts to Satan.

- He was created.
- He had the seal of perfection.
- Was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
- Was in the garden of Eden.
- Was covered with precious stones.
- Was the anointed cherub.
- Was on the holy mountain of God.
- Was blameless in the beginning.

He was initially created good and apparently one of the most prominent spiritual beings. He was possibly even the foremost of them. On day six of creation, everything that God created was very good, and this would include the spiritual beings.

Ezekiel 28:14 may give us a bit of a clue on Satan's job when he was placed in the garden of Eden.

"You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God (Ezek. 28:14 NAS95).

It would appear that God placed Satan (while he was good) to cover or protect His garden and His creation. This may be where Satan's dominion over the world came from. His dominion was on the spiritual side and Adam's was on the physical side. Compare this with Daniel speaking about the "prince of Persia" and the "prince of Greece" as well as Michael who is one of the chief princes and the prince of Israel. Ephesians 6:12 gives us insight on the spiritual realm and the organization thereof. Satan became proud and arrogant and rebelled against God. (Also Is 14:12-15). Jesus calls him the "ruler of this world" (Jn 14:30). Paul calls him the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2). Satan, while tempting Jesus, said that *"I will give You all this dominion and its glory, for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.* (Luke 4:6 LSB) Jesus did not dispute the claim, but rather addressed the issue. Satan wanted to be worshipped, but Jesus answered that only God was to be worshipped.

The whole world lies in the power of Satan. (1 Jn 5:19). Satan deceives people as demonstrated starting with Eve in the garden of Eden and continuing until the end when he is released to deceive the nations (Rev 12:9, 20:3-8).

Satan and his demons are the instigators behind the words and actions of people. Some examples:

- He tempted Eve.
- He incited David to number the people. (1 Chr. 21:1)

- He was behind Peter trying to keep Jesus from fulfilling His Mission. (Matt 16:22-23)
- He entered Judas in order to betray Jesus. (Jn 13:2, Lk 22:3)
- He filled Ananias' heart to lie. (Act 5:3)
- Numerous incidents of Jesus and the disciples casting out demons.
- Satan is called the tempter. (1 Thes 3:5, 1 Cor 7:5)
- They are behind the beast and the false prophet in Revelation.

Our battle is against the evil spiritual forces. (Eph 6:11-12)

Satan is at work in the disobedient. (Eph 2:1-3)

Did man give up his dominion to Satan at the fall?

God bestowed the dominion of man in Gen 1:26. I would suggest that since it is bestowed by God, it can only be removed by God. When Adam and Eve sinned, God spelled out the consequences:

- There would be enmity between the woman and the serpent (Satan). This would logically imply that there was no enmity prior to the fall.
- There would be increased pain in childbirth for the woman.
- She would try and rule over her husband, but he would rule over her.
- The ground is cursed and it would now be toilsome to farm. There would also be weeds.
- They would now die.
- They lost the close communion that they had with God.

The consequence of their rebellion caused a separation from God, tension in their relationship and much more difficulty in carrying out their assignment. They were not only to rule, but were also to subdue the earth.

Because of their sin, they were enslaved to sin and were thus further impeded in the charge to rule and subdue the earth. The charge to rule and subdue was not changed, it was only made more difficult. Through one man sin entered the world and spread to all people (Ro 5:12, 18-19). Mankind was a slave to sin (Ro 6:16-20). Satan holds the power of death (Heb 2:14).

In Colossians, Paul says that:

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (Col. 1:13 NAS95)

So, Satan's domain is darkness and death. Upon salvation, believers have been transferred to Jesus' kingdom. Satan's domain cannot in some sense refer to just the physical world since believers are transferred from his domain to Jesus' kingdom. Satan admitted that this domain had been handed to him. (Lk 4:6)

As we look at all the Scriptures regarding the subject, it does not appear that man lost his dominion, but rather was enslaved to sin which put him into Satan's domain. By accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, people can move from Satan's dominion to Jesus' kingdom.