

Restoring What the Thief Has Taken

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John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have *it* abundantly.

The fact that “the thief comes only to” speaks to his sole purpose which is to steal. What is it that he wants to steal or to take from us? Well, we are told that he wants to kill which means he desires to take our most valuable possession, and that is life itself.

He’s not satisfied with only taking physical life, but he wishes to take from us the experience of life which God desires for us to have. He comes to destroy everything that God ordained for mankind in the creation.

God said that it was not good for man to be alone; therefore, He ordained the marriage relationship, the family relationship, and by extension, companionship and friendship. These relationships were to be enjoyed in perfect union without complications.

God provided sufficiency for mankind, by creating all things for him to enjoy. God put man in a place of perfect peace. He had perfect health, physically and mentally. When examining His creation, God “**saw that it was good.**”

The first name ascribed to God in the bible comes from a woman named Hagar who said, “You are El Roi, the God who sees me” (Gen. 16:13) and later by Abraham when he named the place where God appeared to him, “Adonai-yireh”, meaning, the Lord who sees my need and provides.

It is God, our creator who knows what is good and beneficial for us. It was when the woman “saw” what she thought was good for them that led to our tragic fall. She was fooled by the thief who came to steal, kill, and destroy.

Who is this thief? The woman failed to recognize the thief for he was not flesh and blood. This is why the bible instructs us to “Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” The thief is the devil! “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood,” nor someone of our equal. Coming against us are “rulers, and powers, and forces of darkness, and spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places* which is to say from the spiritual realm. See Ephesians 6:11–12

Think of all the thief has taken from us through his powerful deception and sin.

- Lives have been destroyed through fornication – this sin leads to emotional distress because regardless of what the world says, physical relationships are not just physical but affect one spiritually and emotionally as well. Not to mention the number of unwanted pregnancies and the cause and effects of fatherless children.
- Fornication has led to the spread of diseases, led to sexual addictions such as pornography, incited rape, incest, pedophilia, sex trafficking, and all the like.
- So many families have been destroyed by adultery; individuals have succumbed to depression; suicide; and even murder in its wake.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people aged 10–14, 15–24, and 25–34
- Lies have destroyed all trust among men.
- Anger and hatred leads to mental and physical abuse and even murder.

- Sin's presence in the world has led to a loveless world that feels empty, cold, and frightening.
- Not to mention that the wages of sin is death.
- Death is the worst thief of them all.

From the beginning and throughout history and in our world today, the thief's M.O. hasn't changed. He's still the great deceiver!

James 1:14–16 ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

Ephesians 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Man is no match – You are no match for the thief! I wonder, What has he taken from you?

Mark 3:27 “No one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

The Thief's Arrest:

The warrant for THE THIEF'S arrest has already been issued, and he will soon be taken into custody and thrown into the bottomless pit. Revelation 20:10 “The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Jesus, speaking of the manner of His death in that He would be lifted up on a cross, and His resurrection in that He would be glorified to the right hand of the Father, said these words...

John 12:31–32 ³¹ “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”

Jesus bore all our iniquities and heinous sins on the cross. He came to destroy the works of the devil and to restore all things by reconciling all things back to God. The cross divides the sinners from the saints for one is required to receive Him or reject Him.

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Christ came to give “abundant life” – a life filled with the riches of God. To those who receive Him, He gives them the right to become children of God

What has the thief taken from you? What has he destroyed in your life?

Receive Jesus Christ and be reconciled to God. Old things pass away, all things become new!

Soon, God will restore all that the thief has taken! “According to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells,” 2 Peter 3:13.

Revelation 21:4–5 ⁴There will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”