CH. xii. 4] EXPOUNDED 273  
  
This attitude of Satan discovers his knowledge, and  
his expectation of the fulfilment of the purposes of God.  
He is aware of the destiny of both the Mother and the  
Child. His horned heads are on the watch against the  
Mother below: and his tail above resists the Child’s  
entrance to heaven.  
Satan’s wisdom is seen. He is at the post where most  
danger threatens his realm; to oppose and avert it, if  
possible.  
His design in taking this attitude is evident. He  
vainly hopes to overcome the risen from the dead. He  
hates alike the Mother and the Child. The Child is  
the object of his first enmity, because it has already  
conquered him; and is ready to ascend to heaven, to  
thrust him out from his forfeited possession there.  
The Child is also to rule over the nations below: and  
thus also to eject him from his kingdom of earth, in  
which he deceives the nations. He has especially  
ruised the heel of this Child: and this Child in return  
is especially to bruise his head. v. 5. Indeed this  
seems to be the bond which unites the many persons  
into one mystic Child, that they have obtained victory  
unto death over Satan on high. There is another struggle  
presently after against Satan on earth, and victory unto  
death in that conflict. But that is another dispensation.  
Satan’s enmity and daring are at their height: as  
those passions are in his seed also. Chap. xi. In the  
day of the churches he sought to overcome by subtlety,  
and attempted to deceive by his power from on high,  
influencing in secret false apostles, (Hp. to Iphesus.)  
But now he uses, not craft, but power against these  
conquerors.  
» Thus the same body of conquerors destined to reign  
with Christ is the test alike of the holy angels and of  
the fallen ones. The holy angels and their twenty-  
four princes welcome Jesus and His ransomed brethren  
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