

The deception that God is in control of this world; God says Satan is

The Bible, God's word, repeatedly identifies Satan, the Devil, as the ruler of this world:

1 John 5:19 **...The whole world lies in the power of the evil one** (that is, Satan). ESV

Rev 12:9 **...Called the Devil and Satan, who deceives** (and harms) **the whole world;**

John 16:11 (Jesus) **...Of judgment, because the ruler of this world (Satan) is judged.**

Eph 6:12 **We are...fighting against...wicked spirits** (demons) **...who rule this world;** TLB

How is it so many are in darkness about this? Because they won't come to God, the light

Isa 60:2 **...(Spiritual) darkness covers the earth and great darkness the people...** NIV

1 Jo 1:5 **God is** (spiritual) **light and there is no darkness** (absence of light) **in Him.**

John 3:19 (Jesus) **...Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness...**

How do demons influence people? They impart thoughts that we then think are our own:

2 Cor 2:11 **...Satan from taking advantage of us; we are not ignorant of his thoughts.**

God's mission to true Christians: Acts 26:18 **To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan** (who steals, kills and destroys) **to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified** (made holy) **by faith in Christ.**

If God were in control everyone would already be fully saved from sin and living in Christ:

1 Tim 2:3-4 **...God our Savior; whose will is for all to be saved and to know the truth.**

Jesus says most choose not to be, if they were, Satan inspired evil would come to an end.

Who is God in control of then? Those He's freed from sin, righteous, and led by His Spirit
Satan's rule would be worse but for people's consciences, and the restraint of God's saints.

Ps 37:23 **The steps of the godly** (the righteous) **are directed by the LORD...** NLT

Rom 8:9 (To Christians) **You do not live as your** (sinful) **human nature tells you to; but as the Spirit tells you to if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not** (currently) **belong to Christ.**

Rom 8:14 **Those who are led by God's Spirit** (doing His will) **are God's children.** TEV

1 Jo 3:8 TLB **If you keep on sinning** (doing your will) **it shows that you belong to Satan**

Will Satan always rule the world? No, at the end of this age the world is restored to God

Luke 4:5-6 **The devil...showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world...and said...for these have been delivered to me, and I give them to whomever I wish.**

Rev 11:15 **The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord...**

Gal 1:4 **Christ died for our sins...to rescue us from this evil world...** NLT

2 Cor 5:20 **Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.**