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Satan's Tactics For The Present Era

We are going into a neglected area of discussion: the angelic conflict - because it's required to understand what has changed since Jesus Christ's ascension through the heavenlies and is now seated at the right hand of the Father. We have said that to understand this we have to understand the doctrine of judgment/salvation. So far we have seen two examples of judgment/salvation: one example is the Flood, the second example is the Exodus. These two mirror the third example, which is the Cross of Christ.

We've said that there are certain features involved when God judges and saves. The first feature is that there's always grace before judgment. In the Church Age, the whole Church Age is a period of grace before judgment, before the coming of the Son of Man to dish out judgment. So you have grace before judgment.

The second feature is that God always perfectly discriminates between the believers and unbelievers. He did at the Flood, He did at the Exodus; those are two good examples because the cleavage is very sharp between. There was a sharp distinction between those inside the Ark and those outside the Ark. It was a simple thing, it wasn't related to personality, it wasn't related to intelligence, but it was related to the idea of whether they believed the word of God or not. That was the line of discrimination and God discriminates. Man always hates discrimination but God always uses discrimination because discrimination implies there is a standard and God is the standard. He discriminates with the gospel of Jesus Christ. All other religions outside of God's word, outside of the Bible, all religions are ultimately based on the merits of man, man trying to save himself, operation bootstrap. There's only one religion that is completely by grace; the bloody substitutionary atonement. Islam doesn't have it, Judaism doesn't have it,

and no other religion has it, only Biblical Christianity has a substitutionary blood atonement. Why? Because only Christianity has a God of absolute justice. All other religions ultimately compromise the justice and holiness of God by a program of arbitrary forgiveness based on some relative merit system. So because God insists upon His justice, there's always perfect discrimination as to whether people believe or reject the salvation package of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Going along with that, third we have only one way of salvation. There was only one way of deliverance from the Flood, there was only one way of deliverance in the Exodus and there's only one way of deliverance from the penalty of sin, the Cross work of Jesus Christ.

Fourth we said that whenever God judges He judges man and nature. So we're on this area of nature, linking angelic beings as part of nature and therefore subject to the judgment. Therefore their role in history undergoes substantive changes once the Lord Jesus Christ finished His work and ascended to the Father's right hand—a complete and total victory has been championed by the Lord Jesus Christ. A man now outranks every power in the universe, angelic or otherwise. But if that's the case why is there still a struggle? Why does it appear that Satan and his minions are still waging a war? That's what we're trying to grapple with. If the victory has been won then why is there still a battle and that gets into what is going on in the Church Age.

We went through some of these verses on the angelic conflict and not only is the ground cursed, not only does the ground resist man, but also the angelic beings that occupy the rest of creation themselves are in conflict. There's a spiritual war going on in the unseen dimension, and foolish is the person who thinks that evil is something that's just confined to humankind. Evil is not just confined to humankind; evil is embedded in the environment. I emphasize this because we're going to get into eschatology and we've already covered it when we talked about premillennialism versus postmillennialism. What is it about premillennialism that stresses the environment? You can't have the Kingdom of God unless the environment is cleaned up; you've got to have an environmental cleansing in the physical environment that includes the spiritual environment before you can have the Kingdom of God. How does postmillennialism explain how politics and law are going to clean up the

spiritual environment? That's not sufficient because it doesn't deal with the background forces of evil.

We're looking at these background forces preparatory to understanding how Christ's finished work changes the conflict and how we're plugged into the conflict. Here's a list of several tactics that Satan uses in the war he's waging. Satan's tactics include Blocking Evangelism. 2 Cor 4:4, "he blinds the minds of the unbelieving." The obvious reason why Satan blinds minds is because he doesn't want people to be saved. Every time someone is saved that's a defection from his camp that is very significant. This is why every revival in history has always been followed by a satanic counter-revival. The Protestant Reformation stressed the finished work of Christ on the cross. What did the Roman Catholic Church do? They started a counter-reformation by stressing the importance of man's works. So you had the Reformation and then you had the counter-reformation.

In America you had the second great awakening in the early 19th century and what followed that? All the cults, every bizarre cult you can think of started in America right around 1840-1860. What did we have? We had the Mormons start. We had the Jehovah's Witnesses start. We had the Seventh Day Adventists start. We had all kinds of cults start. Why did you have all those start in those years? Because prior to that the Great Awakening had happened and there were too many people getting saved.

So Satan had to cut off that progress of the gospel because remember, for every person who trusts in Jesus Christ that threatens his program. It means time is running out. You think Satan doesn't feel the pressure, the time crunch he's under? You can think of it this way: there's a clock, and the hands on the clock are moving. And every time someone trusts in Christ, every time there's a spiritual victory, the hands move. What are you going to see when you see a revival? The hands are moving fast because there are thousands of people coming to know the Lord. What does this do? If you're Satan it means time is running out. If you're Satan how do you like seeing that? Satan doesn't want time to run out, he wants to slow down time. So whenever he perceives a speeding up of history he'll fight viciously, and powerfully, and seductively, and brilliantly to slow history down. So one tactic he uses is blocking evangelism, that's 2 Cor 4:4; Matt 13:19, those are a couple of passages.

A second tactic of Satan is Persecuting Believers on Earth. 1 Pet 5:8, he's a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. When Satan isn't having success blocking evangelism he's like a big bully; he resorts to violence. Think of the church as it grows in the Book of Acts. Everywhere the gospel goes Satan is hot on the trail persecuting, beating up believers, it can get pretty nasty. Remember the Thessalonians. It got so nasty; they were losing believers left and right. Whenever the Church is violently persecuted as it is in Somalia, Sudan, China, Egypt, wherever the Church is being attacked you can trace it back to the fact that the satanic forces are threatened by the gospel. And the program of deception hasn't worked; the program of intimidation hasn't worked so they have to turn the heat up now and let's get physical, we're going to smash you. But whether it's deception, whether it's intimidation, whether it's outright persecution, it's always the same, trying to slow down history, trying to stave off final doom.

That's a second way, physical violence, and that goes on today. Interestingly, there's a difference between Satan using intimidation and Satan using physical violence, because when he uses intimidation it can be intellectual intimidation, it can just be social intimidation. But it can escalate to physical violence because, what happens is you have a group of Christians, normal everyday believers, humble people that just will not bow the knee to Caesar. They're going to bow only to Jesus Christ, period. Those are the dangerous kind of people. Those are the people that were thrown to the lions in the Coliseum. Those were the people that were burned alive during the Reformation. It wasn't that they were big criminals; it's that they were humble people who knew that Christ sits in the heavenliness far above Caesar. These are the dangerous people in Satan's book, and the only tactic Satan has to handle them is to try and physically eliminate them. And so he does that for a while, and then he learns the lesson that Tertullian saw in the early church, the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. The harder Satan tries to stop the growth of the Church the more it grows and expands.

Think of Stephen in the Book of Acts. The gospel was not going out of Jerusalem. The apostles were stuck like glue in Jerusalem. They were not interested in going anywhere. So here comes a guy taught by the Holy Spirit, he dwelt on the word of God and he was seeing implications of the gospel that no one else was seeing. He was putting the Scriptures together like no one

else in the entire history of the world had ever put it together, apart from the Lord Jesus, and here he is on the cutting edge of theology and he wasn't some seminary guy, he was a laymen. He went into the synagogues and debated rabbinic students and he put them to shame. They didn't know what to do with him. So one of the most brilliant up and coming rabbi's, Saul, decided he would destroy him. And Saul saw and understood that if we don't get this guy now it's all over. Think that was satanically motivated? You bet it was. But little did Saul know what murdering Stephen would do. Little did he know that it would have the opposite effect, rather than diminish the church it would expand it. Why? Because it's the battle of the Spirit of God against the spirit of this world, and the Spirit of God says I am going to take the gospel to the remotest parts of the earth; there's more to it than just human beings involved and that's the big idea here.

So one tactic of Satan is to block evangelism, a second tactic is to persecute believers violently, physically on earth, and a third tactic is Accusing Believers in Heaven and that's the one we want to look at because you'll hear this as one of the most common objections to Christianity; it's an objection of Satan and he feeds it to people and they think they have a valid objection. Let's look at three illustrations, Job 1-2, Zech 3:1 and Rev 12:10. Let's start with Rev 12:10 and work our way backwards. This is an objection that Satan uses to attack believers and when you hear someone making this objection they're attacking you. It's important to get the big picture here of what's going on so you can make some sense of what happens in life. When we talked about evil and talked about suffering, how can a good and loving God allow this in my life? We showed a chart and we said that in handling suffering and handling the problem of evil we have some tools. The central tool is the Creator-creature distinction, if He is the Creator He knows what He is doing and He will always do right.

But we gave 11 reasons we observe from Scripture that enable us to develop the rationale for why we are suffering. We divide these into two categories of rationales for suffering; one is what we call direct suffering that is directly caused and the other is indirect, not directly caused by anything we did. The suffering that is directly caused is simpler to see why it happens. Category one, the Fall of Adam, Gen. 2:17, "In the day that you eat you will surely die." God is the authority, He rules, if you break the rules there are consequences.

That's simple to see; it's not simple to experience, it's simple to see, "the day that you eat you die!"

Category two, Self Induced Misery, Gal 6:7, "whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap." You do something stupid, you disobey God's word or if you're an unbeliever you stay in rebellion and the sin just heaps up. It works its way through the divine institutions, starting with labor; lazy people who sit around and produce nothing, and we wonder, what's wrong with the economy. Well you have a whole lot of people receiving paychecks that aren't producing anything. It works out into the marriage, broken marriages and families. The economic fallout of broken marriages and families alone is catastrophic. It must be billions of dollars annually to maintain broken families, two households rather than one, the drugs, illicit sex and violence due to the psychological fallout; so, there's a price for category two suffering and it ought to be pointed out where all this stuff is coming from.

Category three suffering, same kind as category two, category two looks on the smaller scale, category three is more like what I just described, working its way out into nations, the rise and fall of nations. A good example of that is in Acts 17:26-27 because right in there God adjusts national boundaries for the purpose that people seek Him and when they get so negative to the gospel of Jesus Christ God says that's it and He shuts off the grace spicket for that nation, and goes and opens it somewhere else.

I believe that's an explanation for England. At the turn of the 20th century they'd had several centuries of Reformation thought, the Puritans and all of it, they had Charles Spurgeon, one of the greatest preachers of all time. 100,000 people attended his funeral, the leadership were strong believers but it panned out. People went negative to the gospel and by the 1920's there was hardly a vestige, if it wasn't for a few old timers who held the line in office there wouldn't have been a Balfour Declaration that laid out a state of Israel. And now if you go to England it's dark, hardly any evangelical churches at all and Islam is encroaching. So, Acts 17:26-27 is category three type suffering, God closes societies when they go too negative to the gospel, he can use encroachment, he can use disaster, he can use earthquake, tsunami, whatever.

Category four type suffering is Eternal in the Lake of Fire, Matt 25:41. That verse says that the Lake of Fire was created for the devil and his angels. Men get there as a secondary thing. The primary reason for the Lake of Fire isn't for human beings; it's for the devil and his angels. Men get there because they agree with Satan, so if you want to agree with him, go live with him forever.

Category five suffering is Temporal Discipline for Believers Only. When we sin God disciplines us. He does that because He loves us and He wants us to confess our sin and be restored to fellowship. He's our spiritual parent. Heb 12, He chastens those that are His. If He doesn't chasten and you can sin, sin, sin and get away with it, you might want to evaluate whether you're His child.

Category six suffering is the Judgment Seat of Christ for Believers. The fruit we produce will be evaluated, whether it is according to the flesh or the Spirit. There's good and bad fruit and only the good fruit will be rewarded. That's directly related to how you live the Christian life. These are six categories of suffering that are direct, meaning you can see cause and effect.

The other five are not so obvious; these are harder to see and you have to have spiritual eyes to see these. Anybody can see the first six. Category seven is suffering to Wake you Up to the Gospel. We could all give testimony as to how that happens in our family unit. A good example if you want a verse for this is Acts 16:27, the jailor. His jail got busted open and he was a very upset man, almost committed suicide. That's the man who asked Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?" So here we have a case where God was answering Paul and Silas' prayer and at the same time it brought the jailor into a suffering situation to wake him up to the gospel. It was nothing that he had done; his suffering, his jail being destroyed, wasn't because of something he personally did. He's suffering because God is interfering in his life to bring him to Christ. It may be a car wreck, a portfolio gone bad, a father-daughter fallout, God can use all these things to wake people up to the gospel.

Category eight is A Nudge to Advance Spiritually. We get in a rut spiritually, we get comfortable and we don't stretch ourselves to grow. We all know it's true. God has to kick us in the rear to get us to go back to the text. A good verse for this is Psalm 119:71, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I

might learn Your statutes.” Why does the Psalmist say it is good to be afflicted? Because we don’t learn. So apparently our afflictions involve lessons. There are lesson plans embedded in the trials and tribulations we go through. It may be a trial that isn’t related to anything you’ve done. It may come out of a clear blue, that’s why we call it indirect, but there’s a lesson God wants us to learn. And at 5:45 some morning, bang, it happens, He calls a class and that’s a nudge to grow spiritually.

Category nine is for the purpose of Evangelizing Unbelievers. Paul says in 1 Tim 1:16-18 that this has happened that it may be an example to them who will, future tense, believe. So here something happens as a testimony. Suffering can occur in a life utterly unrelated to whatever the person is doing, utterly unrelated maybe even to their family or their immediate environment, but somebody somewhere out here, either because they’re going to hear about it, they’re going to read about it, and be led to Christ because of it. So another reason is to be a testimony to unbelievers.

Category ten, 2 Cor 1:4, and that’s to Edify Believers, “so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” We go through something in life. You don’t know why this particular thing has happened to you or happened in your life, but you have to go through it and now you have credibility with someone else who goes through that situation. At the time you may see no apparent reason whatsoever, but later it becomes apparent. This is one of the reasons we all need one another. There’s no such thing as the lone ranger Christian. We can get to feeling all alone but there’s no such thing as a lone ranger. We all need one another, no one Christian has had every experience and did it alone. Our lives are too small and too limited. So He gives us one another. So category ten, you go through something so you can be a credible witness with other believers.

Now we come to the hard one, and that’s Suffering to Resolve the Angelic Conflict. This is Eph 3:20 and it brings us to the subject that we’re getting into with the angelic conflict. That passage says that things occur in our life to reveal things to the angels looking at us from the spiritual realm. While we sit here and talk about Scripture and Creation and Judgment/Salvation and Jesus Christ and all the rest of it, there are eyes watching in the unseen realm. And it’s those eyes of the spirits that are learning. They’re learning

something, not about us, they're probably laughing at us, but they're learning something about God through what He does with us.

In light of all that we have Rev 12:10. This is during the day of the Lord, and the background is that time is running out. During this time period, hundreds and thousands, if not millions of people will come to Christ and so the clock is ticking pretty fast, so what is Satan doing? Rev 12:10, "And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.'" Notice that. Up to this point there's been a hearing going on constantly over us and our sin before the holy righteous God. Think of a courtroom, think of a bunch of yelling lawyers; you've all seen it on TV, big courtroom scene. Transfer that imagery that you now have in your mind to this little phrase in verse 10, "who accuses them before God day and night." What did we say Satan's name means? Prosecuting attorney, he is constantly accusing us before God. He is saying God, you're just, God, you're righteous, and look at these people down here, they're fallen, they're minus R, they are unrighteousness, how can You let them off the hook. See what so and so just did, look at that? You're condemning me God, look at them. And it goes on twenty-four hours a day. Talk about a legal battle; why, God, are you letting men off but you're not letting me off? Why no salvation for us angels? Talk about a legal battle. No legal battle down here compares to what's going on in heaven since the Fall. Day and night, night and day Satan accuses and accuses and accuses, case after case. And by this time God says, I've heard enough of this case. You lose.

Let's move to Zech 3:1-3. Here's another example of persecution and accusation. Let's watch this narration. This is Zechariah being shown this prophetic vision of the throne of God. This is one of those rare times when a prophet was elevated by the Spirit to be able to see something we never can see which is the throne of God. "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him." Now isn't this cute! Here we have a believer who is in high office in the nation Israel, he represents Israel, he's the high priest. Here he is standing before the angel of the Lord, who is the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, so he's standing before the Son of God, Satan's standing at his right hand and he's doing the same thing in this verse he's doing in Rev 12; the

same thing, constantly accusing. Verse 2, “And the LORD said to Satan, ‘The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?’³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel.” Look at the picture, I won’t go into what the Hebrew word “filthy” means, it’d be too shocking here in church. Verse 4, “And he spoke and said to those who were standing before him saying, ‘Remove the filthy garments from him.’ Again he said to him, ‘See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with [clean or] festal robes.’⁵ Then I said, ‘Let them put a clean turban on his head.’ So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments, while the angel of the LORD was standing by.⁶ And the angel of the LORD admonished [or warned] Joshua saying,⁷ Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘If you will walk in My ways, and if you will perform My service, then you will also govern My house and also have charge of My courts,’ now look at this, read it slowly, look at this last clause, “and I will grant you free access among these who are standing here.” Who are “those who are standing here?” Verse 1. Satan and his minions.

So perfect justification is what so offends Satan. He hates that God takes a fallen human being and clothes him with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and we get to go into the throne of God, into the very presence of God, and walk where he can’t walk, where he has to argue his case all the time, and here we are, no better than he is. We’ve sinned just like he has, but for us justification has been promised and we have no merit of our own merit, but this is the argument he’s making. So here we are again, a constant legal accusation being made. See why some lawyers get under your skin; there’s a reason, because they’re a picture of Satan. Not all of them. But Satan is one of the great attorneys, he’s a brilliant attorney, he is constantly arguing and constantly trying to prosecute fallen men.

Go to Job 1:8. Job 1-2 are sort of the introduction and orientation to why Job gets clobbered. Ultimately one reason why Job gets caught up in all the suffering involves the angelic conflict. And the author caught wind of what the issue was and he shows us in verse 8, “And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.’⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’¹⁰ Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every

side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.” What’s the argument of verse 10? What’s the axiom that Satan has in mind under his argument? The only reason Job obeys You God, is because You’re giving him goodies. If you stop feeding him the goodies he’ll stop obeying you. He doesn’t really love you, no human being could want to worship you God, they only do it because you’re giving them goodies and if you cut off the goodies the worship will stop. See, the theory of Satan is that God, and here’s the essence of it, God is not worthy of our devotion, of our trust, of our reliance. God is not worthy, He is not the just, good, loving God He proclaims to be. If God was the just, good, loving God He proclaims to be then history would be different. But at the end of history there are two passages in Revelation that will be sung; Rev 4:11 and Rev 5:9-10. Rev 4 is a great song, “Worthy are You, O God, because You have created us,” and then in Rev 5 the song is sung, “Worthy are you God, because You have redeemed us.” What’s the theme of those two hymns? You are worthy. What is Satan saying? You are not worthy, you are not worthy of our love and devotion and respect, and if you cut off all the little goodies you’re giving this guy he’ll turn and curse You, watch him.

So what does God do? Verse 11, “But put forth Thy hand now and touch all that he has, he will surely curse Thee to Thy face.” So verse 12, “Then the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.’ So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.” In other words, don’t take his life, you can take his possessions, don’t touch his life. Then the first disaster clobbers Job. In verse 21 is Job’s response in faith to that first disaster, “And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb. And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.’”²² Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.” Job was a solid believer. Watch this, Satan can’t let this go, he’s like one of these lawyers, can’t let it go, got to keep pressing. So here he goes again, Job 2:1, the second meeting. By the way, here’s proof that the word “sons of God,” the *ben ei Elohim*, means angels, not men. So when you see *ben ei Elohim* in Genesis it means angels. “Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.” Notice he has access to the throne room. Verse 2, “And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From roaming about on the earth, and walking around on it.’” What did Peter say?

A roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. If we don't think he's walking around on this planet we're crazy. Verse 3, "And the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast,'" see here's the Lord jabbing at Satan, notice, "he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him" notice, "without cause." What kind of suffering was Job facing? It wasn't related to anything Job did, it was totally divorced from anything he did. That suffering came into his life apparently without a cause, i.e. a cause within his own life, but there was a higher cause in the angelic realm. Verse 4, Satan has a theory, "And Satan answered the LORD and said, 'Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵You put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse Thee to Thy face.'" Same theory, go ahead, let him suffer some more and see if You get obedience out of this creature, we'll test the theory

We all know the story of Job and skipping all the way through the book of Job and we get down to the end, to the lessons that Job learned, we come to Job 38. After all the testing, after all the theories, after all the discussions finally in Job 38:1 the Lord answers. Notice something, when God answers at the end of the book He doesn't talk about Satan, because ultimately Satan isn't the issue, is he? What's the issue here? Is God worthy or is God not worthy? That's the issue, that's the issue Satan has raised. So in Job 38 that's the issue again. "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, ²'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?'" Here we are, emphasis on the essence of God, get your eyes on Me says God, I am the Creator, you are the creature, let's get the authority structure clear.


Then you skip over to Job 40 and the Lord says, look at this, He says, verse 2, "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it." And Job responds, "...what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth." Verse 6, "Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm, and said, ⁷'Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me. ⁸'Will you really annul My judgment?'" And look at this one, "will you condemn Me that you may be justified?" What God is doing here is Satan has had a field day of putting all kinds of false ideas forward and aiming them at Job. So God, without mentioning Satan explicitly, is going to come in here and cut this stuff off, and He's going to cut it off by counter-accusing the

groundswell of Satan's dialogue. Satan's dialogue is to make God out to be as bad as possible so he feels good. This is always the story. Small people always attack big people. Satan's theme is I am going to pull God down to my level; it makes me feel better. If I can smear His reputation, if I can accuse Him, falsely enough, as long as I can smear His character, then we even the score, we bring Him down to my level.

That's why God is answering this strongly, are you going to condemn Me? He's saying this to Job because Job is vulnerable to this satanic idea, are you going to condemn Me so that you may be justified. In other words, are you going to erect a standard of justice and put Me under it to justify yourself, is man going to determine this? This is what you'll hear people doing all the time. I'll believe in God when He justifies Himself to me. But until then, uh, uh.

Then finally in Job 42:1-6, "Then Job answered the LORD and said, ²"I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted." And Job admits, ³"Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know." ⁴"Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me." ⁵"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; ⁶"Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes." Repent there meaning I totally change my fouled up view of what is going on here. He admits that I totally screwed up in my questioning God.

This was operation finesse that God did where He completely eliminated the satanic attack in Job's life. And of course Job responded, and the Bible doesn't tell us this but I'll bet there was another meeting. The next time Satan walked in God said oh, been bothering Job again, what did you find out this time? Did you find I'm not worthy? The argument Satan is running here is that God is not worthy of worship and his operation down here is to get creatures to agree with him that God is not worthy. God doesn't know what He's about. Please notice that because people will pick at God like this and all you're hearing is Satan talking through them. They think they have an argument. They don't have an argument. God has a reason; will not the judge of the earth do right?



Alright, those are some of Satan's tactics in the battle that now rages and some of the arguments he's trying to pawn off on Christian and un-Christian alike. Get us to thinking God doesn't really know what He's about down here; letting all these things go on and He's not really worthy of our worship and that's Satan.

Next time we'll return to the Birth and Life of Christ because there's a tremendous story here about why the Lord Jesus Christ, during the four Gospels, came in hypostatic union and lived a kenotic life and now seated at the Father's right hand is doing in us as a result of our identification with Him. All that's coming up but we had to get the background of this horrible, spiritual invisible war that has gone on since the Fall of man all around us, constantly, always involved in our life. We'll tie it all in with the person of Jesus Christ.

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