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**B0615 – April 16, 2006 – Major Bible Themes**  
**Chapter 49 – The Judgment of Satan and Fallen Angels**

Satan and the fallen angels were defeated on the cross but his final demise takes place in three stages.

1. Cast out of heaven to earth (12:9)
2. Cast into the abyss for 1,000 years (20:1ff)
3. Cast into the eternal lake of fire (20:10)

So, today, let's review the career of Satan and the fallen angels, their strategy, their basic tactics, their defeat and the three stages of their final demise.

**I.     **The Judgment of Satan at the Cross****

The career of Satan and the Fallen Angels begins with their fall from heaven. There is no debate that Satan fell but there is debate on when Satan fell. Some argue that he fell between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 long before the creation of Adam and Eve. Others argue that he fell after Gen 2:26 which would be after the creation of Adam and Eve. I hold that the fall of Satan and 1/3 of the angelic realm occurred after the creation of Adam and Eve but before their fall in Genesis 3:1. Satan was then judged.

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

God is the author of this enmity; "I will put enmity". Enmity will exist between Satan and the woman, and between Satan's seed and her seed. Satan particularly hates women because of the specific promise here that a woman's seed will crush Satan's seed. So, this established the basic strategy of Satan during the OT which was to destroy the Messiah at His birth. This strategy is recorded in

**Revelation 12:4** And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

Several kingdoms (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome) were used by Satan to destroy the Messiah throughout the OT.

- Cain's murder of Abel (Gen 4:8; 1 John 3:10b-15)
- Fallen angels intermarrying with human daughters (Gen 6:1-4)
- Attempted rapes of Sarah (Gen 12:10-20; 20:1-18)
- Attempted rapes of Rebekah (Gen 26:1-18)
- Pharaoh's murder of the male children (Exod 1:15-22)
- Attempted murders of David (1 Sam 18:10-11)
- Queen Athaliah's attempt to destroy the royal seed (2 Chron 22:10)
- Haman's attempt to slaughter the Jews (Esther 3-9)
- Herod's murders of the male children (Matt 2:16)

The final attempt on the Messiah's life was the crucifixion. Satan thought that if he killed the Messiah then He could not save anyone. Think about Satan's logic:

if I kill the Messiah He will be dead  
a dead man can save no one

But Satan did not know the laws of death. He did not know that

if an innocent victim dies willingly in the place of the guilty  
the death process will reverse  
the innocent victim will rise from the dead  
and gain the right to give eternal life to anyone he wishes

So while Satan thought that killing Christ would seal his victory it actually sealed his doom. Satan only "bruised him on the heel" but the Messiah had "bruised him on the head". Satan's ultimate defeat occurred at the cross and secured his ultimate demise. The NT attests to this abundantly.

**John 16:8** when He [the Holy Spirit] comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

At this judgment on the cross Christ...

**Colossians 2:15** ...disarmed the rulers and authorities (fallen angels), He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

So, the cross was a complete triumph over Satanic powers.

Nevertheless, because Satan is so deceived (the greatest deceiver is the greatest deceived) he continues to fight against God's program, seeking to establish his own rule and authority over all things. After the cross He was caught up to God at the ascension and having conquered death Satan's strategy had to shift since he could no longer kill the Messiah. So, the first and primary tactic of Satan was to kill the Messiah.

## II. Satan and His Angels Cast Out of Heaven to Earth

The second tactic of Satan, primarily used in the present but in other ages also, is to nullify Christ's work on the cross. The way he carries this out is described in several passages. First,

**1 Peter 5:8** Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

This describes how Satan and fallen angels under His dominion lead people to their ultimate ruin and then take this information back to heaven to use against them in the heavenly supreme court of law. There "he accuses them before our God day and night" (Rev 12:10). This is an attempt to show that Christ's blood was not effective for if it was then those who have believed in Him would not sin. So, Satan is trying to show that justification by faith alone is a legal fiction; that God cannot declare righteous those who are obviously not truly righteous. This is the same lie that Roman Catholicism has embraced to keep the people in subjection to Rome. It uses fear, guilt and extortion to keep its subjects in check. However, God continues to demonstrate to Satan through believers that justification by faith is not a legal fiction. This happens whenever God permits Satan to try to devour a believer and the believer resists him being firm in faith (1 Pt 5:9). When a believer does this his victory over an apparently much stronger enemy (Satan) demonstrates that it is God at work both to will and to do His good pleasure within and through the believer (Phil 2:12-13). Since only God's power is stronger than Satan's power then it is obvious that God is at work in that person's life and that he is free from the power of sin. At the mid-point of the future Tribulation (Rev 12:6) Satan

will be forced to abandon this second tactic because he and his angels will lose a great battle in heaven.

**Revelation 12:7-9** And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, <sup>8</sup> and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

This casting out of heaven is the first of three stages in Satan's final demise. This first stage of his demise is a great victory in heaven and results in great rejoicing. However, with Satan cast out of heaven he comes with great fury to earth. Now he will shift to his third tactic mentioned in

**Revelation 12:13** And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*.

This is his attempt to annihilate Israel since she gave birth to the Messiah. His initial attempt will prove futile because God will supernaturally intervene to protect Israel as she flees to the wilderness (Rev 12:14). Then Satan will pick up his next instrument of warfare, the Antichrist (Rev 13:1). With the Antichrist He is able to kill about 2/3 of the Jewish population (Zech 13:8-9; also cf Dan 7:25; 8:24; 9:27; 11:44, 45; Matt 24:15-27; Rev 16:6; 17:6; 18:24). But he will not be successful in annihilating all the Jews. 1/3 will be brought through the fires of the Tribulation and will be God's people.

### **III. Satan Cast into the Abyss**

When Christ returns He will cast Satan into the abyss for 1,000 years. This casting into the abyss is the second stage of Satan's final demise and is recorded in

**Revelation 20:1-3** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

This proves that the Millennial Kingdom is future because Satan will be bound during the Millennial Kingdom and other passages such as Eph 6 and 1 Pt 5 make clear that Satan is not bound now. But when the King returns the Kingdom will come with Him and Satan will be bound for 1,000 years. Scripture does not tell us whether the fallen angels will be bound with him in the abyss at this time or not. Maybe they will, maybe they won't. What is clear is that no demons will deceive mankind during the Millennial Kingdom. If they are not bound in the abyss their Commander in Chief is and they have no authority except under him. As such they will not be able to operate without their Commander in Chief.

#### **IV. Satan Cast into the Lake of Fire**

As Rev 20:3 said, Satan "must be released for a short time" after the 1,000 years. What happens next is described in

**Revelation 20:7-10** When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. <sup>9</sup> And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And 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.

This shows that an innumerable number of people on earth that are born during the Millennial Kingdom will not believe in Christ. Satan will deceive them and gather them together for the war. This is the final war. It is not Armageddon and Gog and Magog here is not the same battle as that described in Ezek 38-39. That battle takes place during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Tribulation but this battle takes place after the thousand years. The war will be no contest, They will surround Jerusalem and then fire will come down from heaven and devour them. The devil will then be cast into his eternal abode, the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet have already been for 1,000 years (cf Rev 19:20) and which was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt 25:41).

At this time the fallen angels will also be judged. 1/3 of the angels followed in Satan's original rebellion and either a subset of these 1/3 or some in addition to these 1/3 intermarried with human women in Gen 6 to produce a hybrid offspring in an attempt to

destroy true humanity and prevent the Messiah from coming into the world. As a judgment God sent these angels into a holding tank called *tartaroos* until the day of their judgment.

**2 Peter 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell [*tartaroos*] and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

The final judgment of angels is also mentioned in

**Jude 1:6** And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

So, ultimately the cross is the key to the defeat of Satanic powers. At that point their ultimate doom was sealed but it takes three stages to reach their ultimate demise in the lake of fire. So, while many fallen angels continue to tempt us to sin we can rest assured that we have the victory in Jesus Christ and we have the means of resisting them by faith. Once they are cast into the lake of fire they will remain there forever in unending torment for their rebellion against God. The believers will remain with God forever in the New Heavens and New Earth eternally separate from evil.

## V. The Great White Throne Judgment

As I've taught in previous weeks, when an unbeliever dies they immediately go to a place called Sheol or Hades. Before the cross all people went there both believers and unbelievers. David prayed, "Do not abandon my soul to Sheol". But even though they were in the same basic place there are two compartments to Sheol with a large uncrossable gulf between them. The OT saints went to the side called Abraham's bosom or Paradise and the unbelievers to the other side. We know that the unbelievers can see the saints who are in bliss but the other side is torment. Now, after the crucifixion Christ went down to Paradise just like He told the thief on the cross and made a proclamation in Sheol, something to the effect that He was victorious and then He was resurrected and walked around for forty days on earth teaching His disciples about the kingdom of God. At his ascension we believe He emptied Abraham's bosom or Paradise and took it to heaven with Him so that all the OT saints up to that point are now in heaven. Now, when a believer dies he goes immediately to heaven to be face to face with the Lord. but the unbelievers all remain in Sheol until their judgment which comes after the Millennial Kingdom. This is described in

**Revelation 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Several things are important here. First, there is a “great white throne” and the one sitting on it is Jesus Christ according to John 5:27. The Son of Man is the only one who has the right to judge. Second, at that time the present earth and heaven will flee away in preparation for the New Heavens and New Earth. So, apparently, this judgment takes place in some space but I don't know anything about it. Third, the dead, both great and small will stand before the great white throne and then some books will be opened and then another book (singular), which is the book of life. I take it that there are books being filled with the deeds of unbelievers and those will be opened at this time. I also take it that there is a single book called the book of life which records the names of all who have believed and thus have eternal life. Both sets of books will be opened and evaluated. Fourth, many people get confused here because they think unbelievers are judged because they have not believed since Christ took care of the sin problem at the cross. Now, this is true that Christ took care of the sin problem on the cross but there are a couple of things you have to understand a little more deeply to get the whole picture. First, Christ died for all sin. That is, He made provision on the cross for all (1 John 2:2; 2 Cor 5:19-21; et. al.). Now, that does not mean that all men's sins are forgiven. For a person's sins to be forgiven the cross work of Christ has to be applied to them. And it is applied through faith. That's why we teach the doctrine of appropriation by faith. So, the cross of Christ saves no one independent of faith. Faith is the means through which the salvation provided at the cross is applied to the believer. Faith adds nothing to salvation. Salvation is the gift of God and by definition a gift is free. Faith is just receiving the gift and some people have it in their mind that if I receive it then I earned it and the Bible just says explicitly, that's not the case. It says faith strips us of all merit and is not a work. Read it for yourself in Romans 4:6. Faith is not a work. It also says this in Eph 2:8-9. So, if a person refuses to believe then they die in their sins. So, you have to make the distinction that the Bible makes between providing forgiveness of sins and applying

forgiveness of sins. If a person never believed then they never enjoyed forgiveness of sins and they will die in them and that's why we have the books of works opened up here, to somehow deal with those sins that the cross of Christ was never applied to. Now, here's a verse that makes that distinction that is so vital.

**1 Timothy 4:10** For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

So, you've got to remember that the provision is for all men but the application is only to believers. So, belief is the issue but when Christ is spurned they must be judged for their sins. So, they'll check the book of life and if their name is not present then they will open the books of works and judge them according to their deeds. The second thing is this and this is often missed. There are indications in Scripture that there are degrees of eternal punishment. Now, it's eternal in every case and no one will escape the punishment. But there seems to be different degrees of eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

**Matthew 11:21-24** "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> "Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. <sup>23</sup> "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. <sup>24</sup> "Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you."

What does it mean it will be more tolerable for some than others? Well, it seems to be saying that those who receive greater revelation have more responsibility than those who receive less revelation. So, for example, the Pharisees, they had lots of revelation. They were Jews, they had the covenants, they had the OT scriptures, etc... Now, you can compare them to a 1<sup>st</sup> century non-Jew who only had general revelation in creation. God is saying, I'm going to hold you accountable for what you knew about Me and rejected. These people all rejected but some rejected much finer revelation about God and Christ than others and so there will be degrees of eternal punishment according to these verses and I think this flows out of the justice of God. But nevertheless, this day will be a sad one for all who did not believe in Christ because Christ died for them. I like what Chafer said about this, He said, "These cast into eternal punishment could have been saved if they had turned to Christ. Their hopeless estate is due, not to a lack of love of God nor to any unavailability of the grace of God, but rather to the fact they would not believe."<sup>21</sup>



## VI. CONCLUSION

We've seen the basic strategy of Satan and several tactics used to accomplish this strategy but Satan was ultimately defeated at the cross. But his final demise comes in three stages. First, he is cast out of heaven to earth at the middle of the Tribulation. Second, he is cast into the abyss for 1,000 years. Third, after the 1,000 years he will be loosed for a short while but will be defeated in the final war and cast into the lake of fire forever. As per unbelievers, all immediately go to Hades/Sheol when they die, they will remain there until after the Millennium when the present heavens and earth will disappear. At that point they will be resurrected and judged in some space. First they will check the book of life and when their name is not found there because they never believed in Christ then they will open the books of works and will be judged according to their deeds in order to assign them various degrees of eternal punishment. How blessed is the one who does not spurn grace but receives it with great humility by believing in Christ!

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<sup>i</sup> Chafer and Walvoord, *Major Bible Themes*, 368.

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