

SATANOLOGY (28)

It must always be remembered, concerning the death of Jesus Christ, that when we consider passages such as Acts 2:23 and Acts 4:26-28 it becomes very evident that in the execution of Jesus Christ, Satan and his forces were nothing more than “puppets in the sovereign hand of God.” It was not Satan who was calling the shots; it was God. The entire redemptive program of God was contingent upon Jesus Christ going to Calvary and even though Satan was putting this evil act in the minds of certain people, it was still all controlled by God.

Satan can and will attack through a betrayal of a supposed ally. He may use one who is close to someone to turn against him and try to get rid of him and even destroy the one who is focused on doing God's will. That is what He did to Jesus. However, even if Satan is permitted by God to seemingly accomplish his objective, in the end, it will be seen and known that God was behind all things, moving and directing in accordance with His eternal plan and will. Eventually, the one who was satanically used will be destroyed and the one committed to doing God's will and obeying God's Word will be exalted.

(Target #2) - Satan aims his attack against unbelievers .

There is no doubt that in the N.T. age, Satan is a major influence with the unbelieving world. There are four specific influences that Satan has in the unbelieving world:

Influence #1 - Satan dominates the entire unbelieving world. I John 5:19

Satan controls things religious and non-religious that are not based on the truth of God's Word. F.C. Jennings, in writing of Satan's power over humanity, says: “He so weaves the course of this age: its religious forms, ceremonies, external decencies, respectabilities, and conventionalities as to form a thick veil, that entirely hides ‘the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,’ which consists in righteous mercy to penitent sinners only. This veil is not formed by evil-living, depravity, or any form of what passes as evil among men; but by cold formality, heartless decency, proud self-complacency, highly esteemed respectability, and we must add, church membership—all without Christ. It is the most fatal of all delusions, the thickest of all veils and the most common” (Cited from Chafer, Vol. 2, pp. 97-98).

Satan uses good things and bad things to keep the world away from the pure truth of God. He uses religion, education, occupations, vacations, discussions, temptations, donations and any other means to try and keep people from coming to a pure, true relationship with God. He dominates the entire unbelieving world in any way he can, to prevent people from coming to terms with the pure truth of God.

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Influence #2 - Satan works through false theological teachers. II Cor. 11:13-15; II Tim. 4:3; I John 4:1

Since the desire of Satan is to be “like” God, it stands to reason that he will produce a counterfeit group of theological teachers who will look good, sound good and influence many.

Satan’s teachers will always teach that it is ones’ “works” that makes one right with God. Satan’s teachers will present biblical subjects and themes which are partly true. They will not ever teach the whole counsel of God and will often discuss, distract and divert attention to unimportant themes and concepts.

Satan’s teachers do not typically systematically teach the Bible, nor do they systematically teach Bible doctrine. They jump from place to place, from topic to topic because that enables them to keep people in ignorance of the whole truth of God. Satan’s teachers acknowledge the value of the Bible, but they keep people ignorant of what the Bible actually says. Satan uses these teachers to accomplish his objectives. He uses every possible means to keep people from knowing the books of God’s Word. He will use movies, plays, concerts, entertainment and seminars to try and move people away from a careful analysis of Scripture.

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer writes: “By advocating much truth, in the form of a counterfeit system of truth, Satan can satisfy all the external religious cravings of the world, and yet accomplish his own end by withholding that on which man’s only hope depends. It is, therefore, no longer safe to subscribe blindly to that which promises general good, simply because it is good and is garnished with the teachings of the Bible; for good has ceased to be all on the one side and evil all on the other. In fact, that which is evil in purpose has gradually appropriated the good until but one issue distinguishes them. Part-truth-ism has come into final conflict with whole-truth-ism, and woe to the soul that does not discern between them! The first, though externally religious, is of Satan, and leaves its followers in the doom of everlasting banishment from the presence of God, while the latter is of God, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 2, p. 104).

Influence #3 - Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers. II Cor. 4:4

Satan has a power that enables him to keep a sinner from understanding the pure doctrine of the grace of God. We may assume, from the context, that Satan’s blinding ability has to do in part with his crafty ability to adulterate the Word of God in such a way that it draws people away from a focus on the pure grace and mercy of God (II Cor. 4:1-2). Paul is careful to point out, in the context, that God can overpower Satan and is the One capable of shining His truth and light into the hearts of people (II Cor. 4:6). By this, we must conclude that if Satan is permitted to blind minds and God does not shine His light of truth into the hearts, it must somehow be part of the sovereign program of God. Believers must always remember, when witnessing to an unbeliever, that there is a blindness that is being confronted which is satanic. It is not within our power to remove that blindness. Each witnessing opportunity must be approached through prayer and dependency on God. To think we can bring one to salvation is not reality.

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Influence #4 - Satan prevents God's Word from making an impact. Matt. 13:19

Satan obviously knows the power that is found in the Word of God. He realizes that the Word of God is "living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword" and is capable of "piercing...soul and spirit" (Heb. 4:12). When the Word of God is being accurately communicated, Satan is actively on the attack. He will do whatever he can to keep one from understanding, in the sense of personally applying God's Word to one's own heart and life. He will use confusion, misunderstanding, doubt, debate or whatever else he can to try and snatch God's truth away from people. The believer who realizes this will carefully bathe his presentation of God's truth in prayer, depending on God to keep Satan from snatching away the power of the Word of God. Satan obviously aims an intense attack against unbelievers. Those without Christ are the object of his attack.

(Target #3) - Satan aims an attack against Israel.

There is no question that one of Satan's primary objectives throughout all of history is to annihilate and exterminate Israel (Rev. 12:5-17). The Bible is very clear that Satan so hates Israel that in the future Tribulation he will call all demonic forces available to bring all world powers against Israel (i.e. Rev. 16:13-16).

We may also assume that the present blindness that exists among most Jewish people, concerning the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Messiah and Savior is due to the blinding work of Satan (i.e. Mt. 23:38-39/Rom. 11:8). Most Jewish people do not "see" Jesus Christ as the Jewish Messiah and as Savior of the world and this too is part of the blinding work of Satan, which is naturally sovereignly controlled by God. One reason why God permits Satan to blind Israel from coming into a true relationship with Jesus Christ is so that Gentiles might be saved (Rom. 11:11). The Gentile should never forget the importance of Israel or proudly think that we have replaced Israel. Our salvation is, in part, designed to bring Israel to a point of accepting Jesus Christ (Rom. 11:11, 13-14, 18).

Certainly the most contemporary hateful attack against Israel was the Holocaust. From 1939 to 1945, Adolph Hitler was responsible for killing six million innocent Jews. Dusty Sklar, in his book, *"The Nazis and the Occult,"* has done a thorough job of historically documenting the fact that Adolph Hitler and all of his top leadership were actively involved in the occult. It is not a coincidence that more than a million German men could change from "ordinary citizens to mass murderers" in the space of a few short years. It was clearly a satanic, demonic invasion that prompted and promoted this hatred against Israel. Anton LaVey, who prior to his death was the leader of the church of Satan, probably had the largest collection of Nazi memorabilia in America. LaVey dedicated his book, the satanic bible, to a number of people including the Nazi geopolitician "Karl Haushofer, a teacher without a classroom" (*The Nazis and the Occult*, p. 162).

Those who minimize or hate Israel are satanic. Those who seek to destroy Israel are satanic. Israel is a prime target for satanic attack because Satan knows Israel is important to God.