

Subject: *Biblical Truth about Satan – Part 3*

Scripture: *Job 1:1-12*

In these sermons we have already considered the reality of Satan, his names and titles, and his original position and pride. So far, the Bible has revealed that Satan is a created being, the anointed cherub, the highest of all created beings. He was not satisfied with his exalted position, but he wanted to be like God. His pride became his downfall and Lucifer, the angel of light, became Satan, the prince of darkness.

In our text we see that Satan is accountable to God. We also learn something about Satan's activity (Job 1:7; 2:1-2). We are told that Satan is on the prowl.

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* The lion has always been a deadly predator. He looks for the weak, the sick, the careless, and those who are isolated. A man who worked with the lions in a traveling circus put a want-ad in the local newspaper that said: "Lion-tamer needs tamer lion."

In this sermon we are going to look at Satan's activity. What is Satan doing in this world? The Bible reveals some things about our adversary that we should know and heed.

- We should know about his methods (Eph. 6:11)

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (methods) of the devil.* The word "wiles" (Gk. *methodeia*, has the idea of lying in wait or trickery).

- We should know about his strategies (2 Cor. 2:11)

2 Corinthians 2:11 *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.* We can't afford to be ignorant of the Satan's devices (Gk., *noema*, from the word for mind, thought). Satan's devices are his schemes, plots, and strategies that are carefully thought out.

1. Satan controls the present world system (2 Cor. 4:4; Jn. 12:31; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:1-3)

He is called "the god of this world (age)" (2 Cor. 4:4), and "the prince (ruler) of this world" (John 12:31). Paul said that Christ died on the cross for our sins to deliver us from this present evil world (Gal. 1:4). In the Bible "world" doesn't refer to the planet or the people but to the philosophy and values of this present age. He controls the philosophy of this world (Eph. 2:1-3). Satan is the source and motivating influence in secular humanism which holds that man is the measure of all things instead of God. He also influences the thinking of materialism (in science), liberalism (in theology), and relativism (in morals, no moral absolutes). He is also the promoter of pragmatism, the view that the end justifies the means. In essence, Satan seeks to influence public opinion and to control our minds and values. As the god of this world he influences the affairs of nations, particularly their opposition to Israel and the Church.

2. Satan rules over a vast evil kingdom (Mt. 25:41 Eph. 2:2; 6:12)

Matthew 25:41 says that hell fire is prepared for "the devil and his angels." In Ephesians 2:2 Satan is called "the prince of the power of the air." He rules over a highly organized kingdom of evil. ***Ephesians 6:12*** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,*

against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. He is not omnipresent like God, but his influence is widespread.

3. Satan accuses (Job 1, 2; Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10)

The word "devil" (Gk. *diabolos*, English word "diabolical"), meaning "false accuser; slanderer." Satan accused Job of wrong motives. He said, "God, the only reason Job serves you is because you take such good care of him. Just take away his blessings and he will curse you." Satan accused Job of serving God only because it was to his advantage. He certainly did not serve God out of love or reverence. Satan also made false accusations about God. He wanted him to think of God as unloving, unkind, and unfair. Maybe it was Satan who motivated Job's wife to say, "Curse God and die!" In other words, "You might as well abandon your faith because God is not trustworthy." In the New Testament, Satan accused Jesus through the hard-hearted Pharisees. They accused Jesus of being a drunkard, a glutton, a friend of sinners (which He was and is). Satan accuses people either directly or indirectly. He brings our past sins, even forgiven sins, to mind. It is important to remember that God never reminds us of confessed and forgiven sins (1 John 1:9). Satan accuses us indirectly, using people to question our motives or criticize our methods.

4. Satan causes suffering (Job 1, 2; Lk. 13:16; Acts 10:38; Rev. 2:10)

Satan cannot hurt God, but he can and does inflict suffering on many people. We should understand that not all suffering comes from Satan. He is limited by the power and will of God. As with Job, Satan may be allowed to attack, but he must operate within God's prescribed limits. Not all sickness is directly from Satan, but he can cause physical illness as well as emotional and mental disorders (Mk. 5:2-5; 9:20-22). Paul was buffeted (tormented) by something or someone called "the messenger of Satan" (2 Cor. 12:7). Bible scholars have different interpretations of that phrase. This messenger of Satan may have been a demon that influenced him rather than a physical illness. The word "buffet" always refers to being mistreated by other people. Satan may possess a person (Mt. 4:24). The Bible reveals that he will unleash vicious demonic attacks during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 9:1-11).

5. Satan creates doubt (Gen. 3:1)

In the Garden of Eden he deceived our first parents, Adam and Eve, by creating doubt about God's command (Yea, hath God said?). He tried to plant negative thoughts about God in their minds (You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?), implying that God was holding something back from them. This strategy is still very powerful, especially with young people.

6. Satan deceives (Gen. 3:2-4; Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:13-14; 2 Th. 2:9-10)

P. T. Barnum of the famous Barnum and Bailey Circus said, "The people want to be fooled, and I am here to fool them." The devil deceives millions of people today. Satan is the father of lies. He first deceived himself by thinking he could usurp God's authority. Since then he tries to deceive others the same way. Satan deceived Adam and Eve by denying the authority of God's Word (You shall not surely die (Gen. 3:4). Satan deceptively blinds the minds of unbelievers so they will not understand the Gospel and accept Christ (2 Cor. 4:4). He does this by convincing people that religion or morality is acceptable to God. Deception was the weapon that Satan first used on human beings, and it will be his last weapon on the nations (Rev. 20:3, 7-10). The last description of Satan is "the devil that deceived them."

7. Satan distracts (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

As the god of this world, he distracts believers and unbelievers with the things of this world. He wants us to think about pleasure, possessions, and position (1 Jn. 2:15-17). These worldly distractions are rightly called "amusements" ("not to think"). Satan tries to fill our minds and our time so we don't think about what is really important: God, Christ, God's Word, our eternal soul, judgment, heaven, and hell.

8. Satan tempts (1 Chr. 21:1; Mt. 4:1-11; Jn. 13:2; 1 Cor. 7:5; 1 Th. 3:5; 1 Jn. 5:18)

He tempts us to disobey God, to be proud and self-sufficient, to lie, to be occupied with this world, to satisfy God-given desires in an ungodly way, and to rely on human wisdom and strength apart from God.

- We can rest assured that Satan operates within God-ordained limits.

Satan must receive God's permission before harming a child of God (Job 1, 2). He cannot steal a person's salvation or eternal life (Rom. 8:38-39; 1 Jn. 5:18). If he could steal your soul and take away your salvation, he certainly would. The great hymn, *It Is Well With My Soul*, says, "Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed his own blood for my soul." Satan may attack, but he cannot alter our relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT SATAN – PART 3

The Activity of Satan in the World

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* What is Satan doing in this world? The Bible reveals some things about our adversary that we should know and heed.

- We should know about _____ (Eph. 6:11)

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (Gk., methodeia, methods) of the devil.*

- We should know about _____ (2 Cor. 2:11)

2 Corinthians 2:11 *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices (Gk., noema, from the word for mind, thought).*

1. Satan controls _____
(2 Cor. 4:4; Jn. 12:31; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:1-3)

2. Satan rules over _____ (Mt. 25:41 Eph. 2:2; 6:12)
Ephesians 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

3. Satan _____ (Job 1, 2; Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10)
The word "devil" (Gk. *diabolos*, accuser; slanderer).

4. Satan _____
(Job 1, 2; Lk. 13:16; Acts 10:38; Rev. 2:10)

5. Satan _____ (Gen. 3:1)

6. Satan _____
(Gen. 3:2-4; Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:13-14; 2 Th. 2:9-10; Rev. 20:3, 7-10)

7. Satan _____ (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

8. Satan _____
(1 Chr. 21:1; Mt. 4:1-11; Jn. 13:2; 1 Cor. 7:5; 1 Th. 3:5; 1 Jn. 5:18)

- We can rest assured that Satan operates within _____

It is Well with My Soul

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