

# Satan

## A Synopsis of Satan - Part 3

### The Defeat of Satan

Ultimately:

- a) Immediately after telling the punishments to Adam and Eve the Lord spoke to the Serpent and made two broadside blows to him. Humanly speaking, that which the Lord did was foolish for He told Satan how the seed of the woman would bruise his head. It was a terror for Satan for he knew God does not make idle threats. Consequently, his immediate and for approximately four thousand years, it was to prevent the seed of the woman being born. The second broadside was in bruising his head he would be destroyed or rendered helpless.
- b) Because the Lord had told Satan that the seed of the woman would bruise his head, it had been his purpose to nullify the purpose of God in bringing Christ into the world. He did this by the slaying of Abel, the killing of the boy Israelites, etc. When the Lord was born into this world then Satan sought to kill him, an attempt not only when the Lord was a baby but also after the Lord began His public ministry. However, it is here at the beginning of the Lord's public ministry that Satan comes to tempt the Lord. This raises several questions:
  - i) Why at this point and not say, as the cross gets nearer?
  - ii) Why at this point immediately after the Lord's baptism?
  - iii) Why tempt the God who cannot be tempted?
  - iv) Could the Lord have succumbed to the temptation?
  - v) What way is the evil one presented?
- c) Satan obviously knew the purpose of God was to have the earth under the rule of man, a man who would be able to defeat Satan's strongest fortress and Satan himself, and all associated with him. The coming one would overthrow every satanic scheme; Satan's chief men; the beast and the false prophet; eradicate the centre for satanic worship (Rev. 18); and overcome the world's satanically instigated and energized militaries (Rev. 19). As God had purposed, the kingdoms of the world would become the Kingdoms of our God and His Christ, and Satan would be banished into the Lake of fire for all eternity (Rev. 20:10).

### What lessons can we learn from the fall of Satan?

- 1) Work given by God in wisdom was rebelled against.
  - a) How easily human beings can display the same rebellious spirit. Adam was given a glorious work for God, to be a gentleman farmer. No weeds to destroy but to consider how to work with God to subdue, that is bring the creation to a fuller development (Gen. 1:28), to observe how insects and vegetation were perfectly blended together. It was a glorious exercise, but with the prompting of Satan man was not satisfied with the place given to him by God. By taking the fruit he was wanting to be like God.
- 2) An awareness of the greatness of God does not prevent sin.
  - a) Abraham in having a curtailed appreciation of God's promise keeping power. God had promised him a child from Sarah.
  - b) Abraham in having a curtailed appreciation of God in the holding back of regal rulership in having Sarah tell a half truth which led to a distorted knowledge.

### Satan and the Believer

It is an interesting consideration that there are saints who, while they say "The saint has three enemies, the world the flesh and the devil", yet the consideration of the devil being interested in them is not thought of. It may be that they consider themselves to be "not a big wheel" and Satan has much bigger persons to try to bring down than them. Nothing could be further from the truth for Satan knows that even though I am saved and have the divine life, I still have a mind at enmity against God and a deceitful heart. That old nature that has deformed me by sin is still in me and will never be gone until I die or the Lord changes me when He comes.

- a) We are in a conflict more serious and far reaching than any political battle, economic battle or physiological battle. This is a spiritual battle.

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- b) Every child of God, whither they are aware of it or not, is a living target for Satan and his associates. In the following table it lists individuals with whom Satan took a personal interest. A review of them will show that every child of God, male or female with the exception of Judas, the Lord and the man of sin fit into one of these categories.

<b>Those individuals whom Satan was interested in.</b>		
Joshua	Zech. 3:1-5	A man about to be cleansed
Job	Job 1:6 - 2:8	A business man, a sheik
Peter	Lk. 22:31	A man under pressure
Paul	2 Cor. 12:7	A missionary involved in the Lord's work
Eve	Gen. 3:1-6	A housewife
David	1 Chron. 21:1	A saint away from God
Ananias and Sapphira	Acts 5:1-10	A married couple seeking to make a good impression
Disciples in the boat	Mk. 4:39	The disciples of the Lord
<b>Those individuals who do not include the child of God</b>		
Man of sin	Rev. 13:4	An intellectual giant in every way
Christ	Matt. 4:1-10	The Son of God
Judas	Jn. 13:27	A man who would never be saved

#### **His Manner of Operating**

Satan will seek to taint my spirit, curtail my spiritual activities by using my emotions, influencing my thinking and my physical responses. He will seek to influence me by taking advantage of external circumstances as he did with Peter on a cold night; external stimuli as he did with David when he looked on Bathsheba, and by internal fleshliness as He did with David and his numbering of the men of war.

#### **Our resources for victory in overcoming the world, flesh and the Devil**

While Satan is at present the "accuser of the brethren" (Rev. 12:10) and because he is the enemy, we need to know that "Satan will tempt us" (Acts 26:18); will seek to get advantage over us (2 Cor. 2:11); can hinder us (1 Thess. 2:18); and can be transformed into an angel of light (as one representing God) (2 Cor. 11:14). There is a need to take seriously the word of the Holy Spirit through Paul when he stresses a truth by the repetition of the phrase, "the whole armour of God":

*"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of*

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*peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:11-18).*

To strengthen us we have:

- a) Like David, I have a God who can deliver.
- b) Like Peter, I have a High Priest who is praying for me.
- c) I have the Word of God to instruct me in Satan's tactics.
- d) A resurrected Saviour who has defeated Satan and gives that victory to me, and I have the knowledge that I am one of God's peculiar people, and so nothing from Satan can touch me unless by divine permission.

Caution must be needed and continuous watchfulness for while the Lord said, “The gates of Hell shall not prevail against the church” (Matt. 16:18), that indicates the government of Hell, that is Satan can not defeat the church. Let's be aware this is not speaking about the local church, the individual believer, or nations or families.

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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.  
John 16:13**

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