

Satan

Some of The Tactics of Satan

Introduction

One of the most important things in conflict is to know the enemy. To go to war without a true reconnoitring of the enemy is laying the base for unforeseen difficulties. Therefore, it is important for the child of God to know Satan. This is not to be caught up with him in extensive study, but neither does it mean to be ignorant of him. Paul wrote to the Corinthian saints that “We are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor. 2:11). In explaining why we ought not be ignorant, it is because Satan can get advantage over us.

Satan comes to tempt on two major frontal attacks:

- a) Things that divert the saint from the purpose for being saved and being left here on earth. Devour them by living a wasted life and as if they never existed spiritually, or corrupt their minds.
- b) Having individuals compromise into deeper sins of drugs and immorality.
- c) Having individuals slide into deeper sins by the lovely things of life, the fruit was good to the eyes.
- d) He is an opportunist and once he gets a foothold he does not let go easily.

That which must be learnt is we must know the enemy, and for that, there needs to be his unveiling by God. In Genesis 1 God calls certain things by specific names (Gen. 1:5, 8, 10) and they had a significance. Therefore, describing Satan, God unveils him by several names. However, this necessitates absolute fidelity on the side of the one who is exposing him. Who has the qualifications and can judge him without bias, who knows his tactics and who is perfectly true? There is only one such and that is God Himself. He will unmask his satanic majesty and has recorded for us some of His tactics.

What are some of the tactics explicit or intimated in the scriptures?

Of all Satan’s armoury of devices (Lk. 11:21), it is not just a strong man, but a strong man armed. Being a confidence trickster is one his most successful devices. He has throughout the ages, in every congregation seeking to glorify God and the Lord Jesus, those who sought to infiltrate but were false elders (Acts 20:30); false evangelists (Gal. 1:6-9); false believers (Matt. 13:25-38); false teachers (2 Pet. 2:1); false prophets (Matt. 24:11). How many millions of individuals have been deceived by the teachings of Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Roman Catholicism, etc. In each there is an element of truth from the scriptures but added to that is error.

- a) By this deception he makes individuals twice blinded, once by the rejection of the truth and second by letting them live their lives blinded by religion. Unwittingly, in siding with him, people are degrading the work of the Lord, insulting God by life, indicating His inability to save exclusively through the Lord.

Having saints kept in a state of committing “little sins” through wilfulness (like Israel), careless in failing to watch, forgetting and failing to let the spiritual nature develop its characteristics in us (2 Pet. 1:4-9), the saint then is in a state of spiritual blindness. It is solemn to consider the last priest, Eli (1 Sam. 3:2), whose eyes were dim. This man failed to appreciate the glory of the place God gave him and permitted his sons to abuse and made profane the sacred privilege of the sacrifices. The last king, Zedekiah (2 Kgs. 25:7), was blind in part because he rebelled against the discipline of God and refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar who God had given the nation of Israel over to for discipline. Then there is the last judge, Samson (Jud. 16:20), who failed to discern that the Lord had departed from him. Tragically, in Revelation three we read of Laodicea and it’s blindness. Perhaps it was the result of the same sins of the last priest, king and judge of the Old Testament.

The opposition of Satan to every divine activity which releases humanity from his clutches.

Tactics		
Tactic	Reference	Illustration
Let the individual think they are safe.	Gen. 19:30-36 Gen. 9:21 1 Kgs. 19:4	Lot delivered from the judgment of God committed incest with his daughters. Noah saving his family and then getting drunk. Elijah discouraged and depression.

Satan

Some of The Tactics of Satan

Tactics		
Catch them off guard.	Mk. 14:54; 66-72	Peter at the fire, Satan the opportunist.
Meddle in the affairs of others.	2 Kgs. 23:29-30	Josiah joined in the war against the Egyptians, siding with the Assyrians. What his motive was I do not know but it was none of His business.
God does not really love you.	Gen. 2:17	If God really loved you and wanted you to be happy would He not give you everything?
God is not sufficient for my needs.	Gen. 16:1-4 Gen. 12:3; 20:2, 13	Abraham listened to Sarah and was intimate with Hagar. He also had Rebecca tell lies multiples times concerning who she was.
Cause them to fail to see the gloriousness of that which God has entrusted to them.	1 Cor. 12:15, 16	Because I am not the hand - eye
Take away the good seed.	Mk. 4:15	People all chatting about nothing after a serious meeting.
Take advantage of human sympathies, and cause them to not see God's purposes.	Matt. 16:22	Peter, objecting to the purposes of God.
Don't take God literally, He does not really mean what He says.	Gen. 3:4	Ye shall not surely die, but it was a lie.
You have nothing to be afraid of in disobeying God.	Jon. 1:2-3	Jonah might hide in the ship, but instead of being at the bottom of the ship he ended up in the fish's belly at the bottom of the sea.
Appeal to the ego.	Gen. 3:5	Ye shall be as gods.
Encourage them to keep their dignity, i.e. pride, I did nothing wrong, others have done worse than me.	Mal. 1:6, 7; 2:17; 3:8	Where have we robbed thee?
When things get tough encourage frustration against God.	Job 2:9	Job's wife
You do not need God, look at all the things you can do without His companionship.	Gen. 4:16-24	Lamech and his family.
Help them unconsciously have an atheistic mindset. We will just have to make logical preparations and not completely depend on God.	Gen. 12:13; 20:2	Abraham in living as if God was limited and told Sarah to say she was his sister.

Satan

Some of The Tactics of Satan

Tactics		
Confusion via the blurring of that which God has made distinct.	Acts 8:16; 18:8 Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:20-21	Baptism of children to make them children of God. Lord's supper, a mere formality, a social religious gathering to perform a religious task.
Blame God when things do not go as expected.		Israel
Hold to traditions rather than the scriptures.	Mk. 7:8-9	Pharisees and Sadducees
God is not sufficient for my \ our assembly's situation, take the initiative and help him out.	Gen. 18:13, 15. Gen. 16:2-3	Abraham and Hagar, listened to a woman who laughed at the promise of God.
Twist the scriptures. Give them a distorted view so that they side with error, being bias toward the truth.	2 Tim. 2:15 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 6:3 Gal. 1:6-7	Not cutting straight, misapplying to suit my ideas.
Blame others but never themselves.	Gen. 3:12, 13	Adam when questioned by God, blamed God saying "the woman whom Thou gavest to me" "she gave me", Eve blamed the serpent.
Help them to deny, a sin could never happen to them.	Mk. 14:29 1 Cor. 10:12	Peter Warning to the Corinthians
Split the saints.	1 Cor. 1:11-12 Phil. 4:2	Saints split over preaching personalities. Saints split over unknown hurts etc.
Encourage them to compromise and live on the edge.	Jud. 16:4	Samson went down to the Philistines and loved a Philistine woman.
The disappointments that seem to go against that which God has promised.	Gen. 4:1	Eve when she had her first son Cain, "I have gotten a man from the Lord". She thought this was their promised seed but soon realized he was not it, and by the time Abel was born she called Him "vanity", for all she saw was emptiness.
Do the opposite to that which God has commanded to be done.	Jon. 1:2-3	Jonah

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

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia