

OUR ENEMY

WHO IS OUR ENEMY?

The first step to victory is to recognize the enemy. -Corrie Ten Boom

A poll by George Barna found that, out those surveyed, 48% agreed Satan was either symbolic or did not know if he really existed at all.

The same poll also found that 60% of those claiming to be Born Again, agreed strongly, agreed somewhat, or did not know if Christians, Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists all prayed to the same God.

WHO IS OUR ENEMY?

- WHAT IS HIS NAME?
- WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
- WHAT POWER DOES HE POSSESS?
- WHAT IS HIS FUTURE?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

- Dragon – Greek *drakon*, *fascinating*
- Serpent – Greek *ophis*, *snake*, *artfully malicious*
- Devil – Greek *diabolos*, *slanderer*
- Satan – Greek *santanos*, *accuser*

DRAGON (Wonder)

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

- The name, *Dragon*, inspires a certain mythical wonder, the type of adoration he has desired since his rebellion

SERPENT (Subtle)

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

- The name, *Serpent*, alludes to his subtlety, his ability to infiltrate, seldom through force, but, more often, through clandestine methods

DEVIL (Slanderer)

Act 13:10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

- The name, *Devil*, alludes to his ability to undermine and pollute the ways of God

SATAN (Accuser)

Zec 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

- The name, *Satan*, alludes to his desire to accuse and condemn before man and previously, before God
- *Resist* – Hebrew, *accuse*

ORIGIN

- What was Satan's position before his rebellion?
- What caused his rebellion?
- When did this occur?

ORIGIN

Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Job 38:5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Job 38:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

ORIGIN

- In Job, the phrase *sons of God* is used several times in reference to angelic beings
- God speaks to man's finite understanding of the cosmos and circumstance, *Where were you?*
- The scriptures tell us all the sons of God rejoiced at the creation they observed

ORIGIN

Eze 28:11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Eze 28:12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

Eze 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

ORIGIN

Eze 28:14 Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:15 Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Eze 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

ORIGIN

Eze 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Eze 28:18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Eze 28:19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more.

ORIGIN

- Verse 12: King of Tyre – prophetic language for Satan
- Verse 13: In the Garden of Eden, created to worship
- Verse 14: A chosen cherub, part of the angelic host tasked with the protection of the Holiness of God
- Verse 15: Created perfect until rebellion
- Verse 16: *Merchandise/Traffic* – Hebrew for *skimming off the top*, apparently as a central part of Heaven's worship program, Satan began to withhold some of the worship and adoration due Jehovah for himself, this sin led to his exile from Heaven
- Verse 17: Satan's beauty led to his selfishness, arrogance, and eventual rebellion against God
- Verse 18: Exiled from Heaven and eventually destroyed

ORIGIN

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

ORIGIN

Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Isa 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, *Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

Isa 14:17 *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners?

ORIGIN

- Verse 12: *Lucifer*, transliterated from the Latin Vulgate, better translated, *Day Star or Star of the Morning*
- A possible reference to Venus, appearing brightly before the dawn
- Verse 13 & 14: (5) *I will* statements of his pride
- Verse 15: Satan's judgment, exile from Heaven, sentenced to the pit, displayed as the great deceiver
- *Sides* of the pit, Hebrew for *far reaching*

ORIGIN - CONCLUSIONS

- Timeline: According to Ezekiel 28, Satan was created and, at some point, was in the Garden of Eden, then sin was found in him and he falls from his position
- Some hold to the *Gap Theory* which states there was a Chaotic Earth (pre-Adam/Garden of Eden) in which Satan had fallen into and laid waste. This theory was posed to help rationalize dinosaurs, millions of years, cavemen, etc. into the time table of scripture
- *Gap Theory* supporters place this between Genesis 1:2 and 1:3

ORIGIN - CONCLUSIONS

- Satan was an anointed (chosen) cherub and closely associated with music and worship eventually beginning to withhold some of the glory and praise due to God for himself
- (3) angels are named in scripture: Michael, Gabriel, and Satan
- Each, at some point, representing (3) key aspects of the believer's life
- *Michael* – prayer, as he is always associated with bringing an answer back from God
- *Gabriel* – word, as he is always delivering a message of God
- *Satan* – worship, as he began as a key figure in Heaven's worship scene and, since his fall, has desired all worship

ORIGIN - CONCLUSIONS

There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan. -C.S. Lewis

SATAN'S POWER

- What power(s) does Satan possess?
- What are the limitations to this power?
- What dominion has been given to him?
- What forces are at his command?

SATAN'S POWER - STEALTH

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

SATAN'S POWER - STEALTH

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

SATAN'S POWER - STEALTH

- Satan's primary strength, as illustrated in his first encounter with mankind, is his stealth
- Do not fear the threat that is realized, fear the threat that is unseen
- First, Satan questions the *command* of God (Has God said...?)
- Second, Satan denies the *authority* of God's word (You will not...)
- Third, Satan slanders the *motive* of God's intent (you shall be gods...)

SATAN'S POWER - STEALTH

- God does all things for His glory, man was created to have a relationship with God and dominion over His creation
- Satan has fallen from his position in Heaven as a key figure in God's worship, now he targets the single point of God's creation designed with the ability to willingly give God this deserved praise
- In Satan's mind, if he can destroy this relationship and breed the same rebellion into man, their position with God will be forever lost

SATAN'S POWER - STEALTH

- For all of Satan's power, the ability to create alludes him – only God possesses the power to create and give life
- Satan's power rests in the ability to destroy, so this act is not the attempt at *creating* a relationship between mankind and himself, but rather, the *destruction* of the relationship between God and man
- Satan is now introduced to something not accessible to himself – God's grace

SATAN'S POWER - ACCUSATION

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

SATAN'S POWER - ACCUSATION

- Twice in the first two chapters of Job it is recorded that Satan was allowed access to Heaven
- This access gave him the opportunity to accuse God's people personally before the throne
- This access was limited, and, as illustrated in the second instance in Job 2, he was sometimes *required* to present himself and give account for his actions
- Satan's attacks on Job would be allowed under God's scrutiny

SATAN'S POWER - ACCUSATION

Zec 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

Zec 3:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?*

Zec 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

SATAN'S POWER - ACCUSATION

Zec 3:4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

Zec 3:5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

SATAN'S POWER - ACCUSATION

- Satan, by name, is the Accuser, ready and willing to slander God's people and call attention to their sins
- In this courtroom drama, Satan stands as prosecutor, demanding Joshua's guilt be judged in the same manner as his own and attempting to draw God off the bench as Righteous Judge and to somehow compromise Himself to save His most beloved creation – mankind
- Satan questions how God could use this man as priest when he is apprehended in his sin and shame, his question to God, *How do you overlook this?*

SATAN'S POWER - ACCUSATION

- God would give Joshua clean robes for the priesthood and a turban (mitre) as a symbol of royalty
- Does God overlook Joshua's filth? Does He somehow compromise His word on sin?
- No, God begins to speak of *the Branch*, prophetic language regarding the One who would come and make all things right
- The relationship lost in the Garden would be reclaimed by the One who could pay the debt satisfying God's righteous judgment and limitless grace in one person
- God would not overlook sin, for the debt would be paid in full, yet He would not abandon His creation in their sin either

SATAN'S POWER - ACCUSATION

1Jn 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

- For the believer, the Accuser is replaced by the Advocate
- Satan is forced from the courtroom and instead of prosecution from the enemy we are afforded One who would argue His righteousness covers our shame

SATAN'S ACCESS

Luk 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Luk 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luk 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

SATAN'S ACCESS

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Rev 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

SATAN'S ACCESS

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,
Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom
of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser
of our brethren is cast down, which accused them
before our God day and night.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the
Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they
loved not their lives unto the death.

SATAN'S ACCESS

- In Luke, when Jesus speaks of Satan's fall from Heaven, it is accompanied by His exhortation to rejoice not in power over devils, but that their names were written in Heaven (associated with salvation)
- In Revelation, the Dragon is cast out and into the earth, yet again, those who would triumph, would do so by the blood and their testimony
- Both instances occur sometime after man would be given the ability (in Christ) to overcome Satan

SATAN'S ACCESS

A pastor from Haiti shared the following story...

A man wanted to sell his house for \$2,000.00. Another man wished to buy the house, but could not afford the full amount. After much bargaining, the owner agreed to sell the house for half the asking amount, but would retain ownership of one nail protruding out above the door. After several years, he wanted his old house back, but the new family refused to move. The previous owner found the carcass of a dead dog and hung it on the nail and eventually the smell made the house unbearable and the family vacated.

SATAN'S POWER - DECEPTION

Joh 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

SATAN'S POWER - DECEPTION

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

SATAN'S POWER - DECEPTION

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Rev 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

SATAN'S POWER - DECEPTION

- Satan murdered in the Garden, he did not pull the trigger, but deceived mankind into bringing death upon themselves through his deception
- In the present age, he often works through his children, those operating under his power to satisfy their own lusts
- This deception is so strong, it could possibly deceive the elect, the chosen, of God if not for His grace
- In the last time, he will deceive the nations in one last attempt to gain dominion
- In the few examples here, we see families, believers, and entire nations that could be or will be deceived by Satan

SATAN'S POWER - DECEPTION

Satan can make men dance on the brink of hell as though they were on the verge of heaven. -Charles Haddon Spurgeon

SATAN'S POWER - RULER

Eph 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

SATAN'S POWER - RULER

Joh 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world:
now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Joh 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with
you: for the prince of this world cometh, and
hath nothing in me.

SATAN'S POWER - RULER

Eph 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*.

SATAN'S POWER - RULER

Luk 4:5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

Luk 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

SATAN'S POWER - RULER

- Satan is the motivating force behind this world system
- He is an active, spiritual being exercising power over the earthly realm for a time period allotted by God
- He is not omniscient (all knowing) or omnipresent (all present), however, he commands a vast army of fallen angels (demons) to carry out his purposes
- Satan wars against the Spirit through suggestion to the flesh

SATAN'S POWER - RULER

Sin has the devil for its father, shame for its companion, and death for its wages. -Thomas Watson

SATAN'S POWER - OTHER

- Disease/Ailments – Luke 13:16 (woman bound 18 years)
- Possession – Mark 1:32 (many brought to Jesus possessed by devils)
- Corruption – Matt. 13:38 (children of the devil planted among the wheat)
- Distraction – Mark 4:15 (Satan takes away the word planted in hearts)

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

2Co 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

- Satan continues the pattern in those who serve him
- By *camouflage* they *infiltrate*
- By *charm* they *infect*
- By *charisma* they *indoctrinate*

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

- Satan, the father of lies, breeds children of deceit
- Just as in the Garden, *Has God said?*
- Question Biblical doctrine
- Turn against authority
- Separate from godly fellowship
- Some will be deceived by “new” doctrines

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

1Jn 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

- *Anti*, Greek for *of another kind*
- Do not suppose the spirit of Antichrist to appear in black, flowing robes carrying a pentagram and having 666 carved into his forehead
- These do not appear to be opposed to Christ, but offer another doctrine of Christ
- Any doctrine outside of scripture is false and heresy, no matter how logical or sympathetic
- As always, God equips with the tools to oppose this heresy – the Holy Spirit

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

- Satan's Gospel (Galatians 1:7-8)
- Satan's Trinity (Revelation 16:13)
- Satan's theology (1 Timothy 4:1)
- Satan's ministers (2 Corinthians 11:4-5)
- Satan's church (Revelation 2:9)
- Satan's throne (Revelation 13:2)
- Satan's christs (Matthew 24:4-5)
- Satan's false brethren (Galatians 2:4)
- Satan's false prophets (2 Peter 2:1)

FALSE TEACHERS...

- Promote salvation (earned or maintained) by works
- Question the reality of Hell and Satan
- Renounce the judgment of sin
- Doubt the incarnation of Christ
- Compromise the bodily resurrection
- Deny the virgin birth
- Argue the authority and infallibility of scripture
- Oppose the complete work of atonement
- Disregard the sanctity of marriage

FALSE TEACHERS

Jud 1:10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

- Apostates speak of what they know – the physical
- Beware the gospel that majors on the physical aspects of life (i.e. prosperity, fulfillment, finances)
- Avoid the gospel that overlooks the problem of sin
- Reject the self-centered doctrines that make you the center of the universe, God does all things for His glory