

Peter and His Epistles

Lesson # 16: Satan

1 Pet. 5:8

I. The Prominence of Satan in Scriptures

Satan's existence is taught in seven books of the Old Testament, by every writer in the New Testament and by Christ Himself (In 25 out of the 29 passages in which Satan is mentioned in the Gospels, Christ is the speaker).

II. Origin of Satan

- A. His creation – Ezek. 28:13-16
- B. His fall – Isa. 14:12-14

III. Personality of Satan

There is a quantity of clear evidence for treating Satan as a real personality and not just as a personification of abstract evil.

- A. He has intelligence and emotion

Consider:

- 1. 2 Cor. 2:11, 11:3, Eph. 6:11
- 2. He has volition or will – Isa. 14:12-14, 2 Tim. 2:26
- 3. He has sensibility or emotion – Rev. 12:12

- B. He is addressed as a personality (Zech. 3:1-2, Matt. 4:1-11, 12:26, Luke 4:1-13)

- 1. His names (and titles):

Satan (Job 1:6), The Devil (1 Pet. 5:8), Lucifer (Isa. 14:12), Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24), The Evil One (John 17:15), The Tempter (Matt. 4:3), Prince of Demons (Matt. 12:24), Prince of this World (John 12:31) and the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4)

- 2. His symbolic representations:

- a. A great red dragon – Rev. 12:3
- b. The old serpent – Rev. 12:9, 14, 15
- c. Angel of Light – 2 Cor. 11:14
- d. Roaring lion – 1 Pet. 5:8

IV. Nature of Satan

- A. His evil character – John 8:44, 1 John 3:8, 1 Pet. 5:8, Rev. 12:10
- B. His definite limitations:

1. Very intelligent but not omniscient – 2 Cor. 2:11, Eph. 6:11
2. Very powerful but not omnipotent – Matt 12:29, Eph. 6:10-18, Jude 9
3. Represented in many localities through demons but he is not omnipresent – Rev. 12:7-9
4. Can be resisted by the Christian who is submitted to God – James 4:7, 1 Pet. 5:9
5. Subject to the boundaries of God's sovereign will – Job. 1:12, 2:6

V. The work of Satan

A. In relation to God:

1. Twists God's word – Gen. 3:4-5
2. Opposes God's work – Matt. 4:1-11, 1 Thes. 2:18
3. Counterfeits the workers and work of God – 2 Cor. 11:14-15, Rev. 16:13
4. Seeks to usurp God's position and power by working through the man of sin – 2 Thes. 2:4, 9
5. Seeks to be worshipped – Matt 4:9, 2 Thes. 2:3-4

B. In relation to Christ:

He will be in constant conflict with Christ – Gen. 3:15

C. In relation to believers:

1. Tempts them to doubt, disbelieve, disobey God – Gen. 3:1-5
2. Sows tares among believers – Matt. 13:38-39
3. Uses demons to war against them – Eph. 6:11-12
4. Hinders their work – 1 Thes. 2:18
5. Accuses and slanders them – Rev. 12:10

D. In relation to unbelievers:

1. He snatches God's Word from their hearts – Matt. 13:19, Luke 8:12
2. Blinds their minds to the Gospel - 2 Cor. 4:4
3. Result: prevents unbelievers from spiritually understanding the Gospel and believing it.

E. His ability to work:

1. Exercises great supernatural powers to "wow and woo people." 2 Thes. 2:9, Rev. 13:15 – Luke 22:3, John 13:27 – takes possession of men
Example: Ex. 7:10-8:7 – apparently Egyptian magicians did their "magic" by satanic power.
2. Influences people (including Christians) – Acts 5:3
3. Causes physical affliction – Luke 3:11, 16; Acts 10:38, 1 Cor. 5:5, 2 Cor. 12:7
4. Inflicts death upon people only within God's permissive will – Heb. 2:14 (Job 2:6)

VI. So what? Our defense against Satan

- A. Never speak of him contemptuously – Jude 8-9
 - 1. Satan should be regarded by the Christian seriously and not jokingly
 - 2. Satan is not to be viewed as a being with horns, or a forked tail, hooves and wearing long red thermal underwear and equipped with a pitch fork.
 - B. Regard him as only a limited being with no power except as permitted by God – Job 1:21, 2:10, 1 Cor. 10:13
 - C. Remember Christ's intercessory (we are delivered from the "evil one" – Matt. 6:13) ministry stands between us and Satan's power – John 17:15.
 - D. Be watchful and sober minded – 1 Pet. 5:8
 - E. Don't be scatterbrained, but (Gal. 5:23 "self control") – keep your thoughts collected and under the control of the Spirit.
 - F. Do not give any place to Satan – Eph. 4:27. Maintain a spirit filled life – Eph. 5:18
 - G. Daily submit to God – James 4:7
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Discussion Questions:

- 1. Are you alert and aware that Satan would love to destroy you, your family, and your reputation?
- 2. What are some practical ways that you resist him?