

The Doctrine of Satan

- I. The Existence of Satan.
- A. His existence is doubted by the world.
 - 1. As shown by the typical cartoon concept.
 - 2. As shown by the denial from liberal pulpits.
 - 3. As shown by the silence from conservative pulpits.
 - B. His existence is declared by the Bible.
 - 1. The devil is mentioned in seven Old Testament books: Genesis, 1 Chronicles, Job (twelve times), Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Zechariah.
 - 2. He is to be found in nineteen New Testament books, and is referred to by every New Testament writer (Mt. 4:1; Mk. 5:15; Lk. 22:3; 1 Jn. 3:8; Rom. 16:20; 1 Pet. 5:8; Jas. 4:7; Jude 9).
 - 3. He is mentioned by the Lord Jesus Christ some fifteen times (Mt. 4:10; 16:23; 25:41; Lk. 10:18; 22:31; Jn. 8:44; 6:70).
- II. The Origin of Satan.
- A. His origin and fall as related by Ezekiel (Eze. 28:12-19).
Let us now observe some key words in this passage:
 - 1. "Thou ... [art] full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (v. 12).
 - 2. "Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God" (v. 13).
 - 3. "The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes" (v. 13).
 - 4. "The anointed cherub that covereth" (v. 14).
 - a. He was anointed.
 - b. He was a guardian cherub.
 - 5. "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty" (v. 17).
 - B. His origin and fall as related by Isaiah (Isa. 14:12-14).
Note the five foolish and fatal "I wills" of the devil:
 - 1. I will ascend into heaven (v. 13).
 - 2. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God (v. 13).
 - 3. I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north (v. 13).
 - 4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds (v. 14).
 - 5. I will be like the most High (v. 14).
- III. The Personality of Satan.
- A. He is a real person.
 - B. He possesses intelligence (2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3).
 - C. He possesses memory (Mt. 4:6).
 - D. He possesses a will (2 Tim. 2:26).
 - E. He possesses emotions.
 - 1. Desire (Lk. 22:31).
 - 2. Pride (1 Tim. 3:6; Eze. 28:17).
 - 3. Wrath (Rev. 12:12).
 - F. He possesses great organizational ability (1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:9, 24).
 - 1. It was the devil that organized and led the first rebellion against God (Rev. 12:4).
 - 2. It will be the devil who will organize and lead the last rebellion against God (Rev. 20:7-9).
 - 3. It was the devil who systematically subjected the Old Testament patriarch Job to fiery trials in an attempt to break him (Job 1-2; Eph. 6:11-12).
- IV. The Names of Satan.
- A. Satan (adversary): his most common name, used some fifty-two times.
 - B. The devil (slanderer): used thirty-five times.
 - C. The prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2).
 - D. The god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4).
 - E. The king of death (Heb. 2:14).
 - F. The prince of this world (Jn. 12:31).
 - G. The ruler of darkness (Eph. 6:12).
 - H. Leviathan (one who dwells in the sea of humanity) (Isa. 27:1).
 - I. Lucifer (light bearer, shining one) (Isa. 14:12).
 - J. The dragon (Rev. 12:7).
 - K. The deceiver (Rev. 20:10).
 - L. Apollyon (destroyer) (Rev. 9:11).
 - M. Beelzebub (prince of demons) (Mt. 12:24).

- N. Belial (vileness, ruthlessness) (2 Cor. 6:15).
- O. The wicked one (Mt. 13:38).
- P. The tempter (1 Thess. 3:5).
- Q. The accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10).
- R. An angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14-15).
- S. A liar (Jn. 8:44; Gen. 3:4-5).
- T. A murderer (Jn. 8:44).
- U. The enemy (Mt. 13:39).
- V. A roaring lion (1 Pet. 3:5).

V. The Activities of Satan.

- A. He imitates God.
 1. He has a false trinity (Rev. 13:2; 16:13).
 2. He has his synagogues (Rev. 2:9).
 3. He has his doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1).
 4. He has his mysteries (Rev. 2:24; 2 Thess. 2:7).
 5. He has his throne (Rev. 2:13; 13:2).
 6. He has his kingdom (Lk. 4:5-6; Jn. 14:30).
 7. He has his worshipers (Rev. 13:4).
 8. He has his angels (Rev. 12:7).
 9. He has his ministers (2 Cor. 11:15).
 10. He has his miracles (2 Thess. 2:9; Mt. 7:21-23).
 11. He has his sacrifices (1 Cor. 10:20).
 12. He has his fellowship (1 Cor. 10:20).
 13. He has his armies (Isa. 24:21; Rev. 14:14-17; 16:16; 19:11-16).
- B. He sows tares among God's wheat (Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43).
- C. He instigates false doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1-3).
- D. He perverts the Word of God. This he does by:
 1. Taking it out of context (Mt. 4:6; Gen. 3:1-4).
 2. Causing it to be misinterpreted.
 3. Overstressing one side of a doctrine and ignoring the other side.
 4. Understressing certain doctrines.
- E. He hinders the works of God's servants (1 Thess. 2:18).
- F. He resists the prayers of God's servants (Dan. 10:12-13).
- G. He blinds men to the truth (2 Cor. 4:4).
- H. He steals the Word of God from human hearts (Mt. 13:19).
- I. He accuses Christians before God (Job 1:7-12; 2:3-6; Zech. 3:1-4; Rev. 12:9-10).
- J. He lays snares for men (2 Tim. 2:26; 1 Tim. 3:7).
- K. He tempts (Mt. 4:1; Eph. 6:11).
- L. He afflicts (Job 2:7; Lk. 13:16; 2 Cor. 12:7; Acts 10:38; 1 Cor. 5:1-5).
- M. He deceives (Rev. 12:9; 20:8, 10).
- N. He undermines the sanctity of the home (1 Cor. 7:3-5).
- O. He tempts both saints and sinners to transgress against the holiness of God.
 1. It was Satan who tempted David to disobey God (1 Chron. 21:1).
 2. It was Satan who tempted Judas to betray Christ (Jn. 13:2).
 3. It was Satan who tempted Peter to rebuke Christ, and later to deny him (Mt. 16:22-23; Jn. 13:38).
 4. It was Satan who tempted Ananias to lie to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3).

VI. The Various Geographical and Spiritual Locations of Satan.

- A. In the heavenlies, as God's choir leader. This was his past location, prior to his fall (Eze. 28:14-15).
- B. In the heavenlies, as God's chief enemy. This is his present location (Job 1:6-7; Zech. 3:1-2).
- C. On earth only. This will be his first future location (Rev. 12:7-12).
- D. In the bottomless pit. This will be his second future location (Rev. 20:1-3).
- E. On earth for the last time after the millennium. This will be his third future location (Rev. 20:7-9).
- F. In the lake of fire forever. This will be the devil's final future location (Rev. 20:10).

VII. The Limitations of Satan.

- A. He is not omnipresent.
- B. He is not omnipotent.
- C. He is not omniscient.

VIII. The Christian's Victory Over Satan (Jn. 16:33; 1 Jn. 4:4; Rev. 21:7).

If language means anything at all, these verses promise the child of God total victory over his enemy, the devil. But how does the Christian experience this promised victory? He does it by keeping the same fundamental facts in mind that any would-be victor would, whether in the secular or spiritual battlefield. Here then are four fundamental facts:

- A. The weakness of the Christian (Jn. 15:5-6).
- B. The strength of the Christian (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13).
- C. The weakness of Satan.
 - 1. He cannot tempt a believer except by God's permission (Job. 1:8-12).
 - a. First, God knows exactly how much his child can bear (Ps. 103:14).
 - b. Second, he will not allow Satan to go beyond this breaking point (1 Cor. 10:13).
 - c. Third, he only allows the temptation in the first place to strengthen and purify us (Gen. 50:20; Jas. 1:1-4, 12; 1 Pet. 1:6-7).
 - 2. He cannot stand to be resisted (Jas. 4:7).

The Christian can successfully resist the devil if he does the following:

 - a. First, he must know how the devil attacks (2 Cor. 2:11).
 - b. Second, he must stand guard waiting for Satan to attack (1 Pet. 5:8).
 - c. Third, he must have on the proper protection when Satan attacks (Eph. 6:10-17).
 - 3. He cannot stand the blood of Christ, nor the positive testimony of the Christian (Rev. 12:11).
- D. The strength of Satan. The following list could well be called "The Sixteen Deadly D's of the Devil."
 - 1. Disappointment. To be disappointed is to forget Romans 8:28.
 - 2. Discouragement. To be discouraged is to forget 1 Samuel 30:6.
 - 3. Despair. To despair is to forget 2 Corinthians 4:8.
 - 4. Doubt. To doubt is to forget 1 Timothy 2:8 and John 20:27.
 - 5. Disbelief. To disbelieve is to forget Hebrews 3:12.
 - 6. Distraction. To be distracted is to forget Matthew 14:30.
 - 7. Doublemindedness. To be double-minded is to forget James 1:8 and 4:8.
 - 8. Dishonesty. To be dishonest is to forget 2 Corinthians 4:2.
 - 9. Deceit. To be deceitful is to forget Jeremiah 17:9.
 - 10. Dullness. To suffer dullness is to forget Heb. 5:11.
 - 11. Deadness. To suffer deadness is to forget Revelation 3:1.
 - 12. Delay. To delay is to forget Proverbs 27:1.
 - 13. Discord. To sow discord is to forget Proverbs 6:16-19.
 - 14. Defilement. To become defiled is to forget 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.
 - 15. Defame. To defame someone is to forget Psalms 101:5.
 - 16. Disobedience. To disobey is to forget Romans 6:14-18.