

## Work of Satan

- First and foremost, his work is to oppose God's will and work.
  - He took 1/3 of the angels with him.
  - Soon after, he tempted Eve and caused the Fall.
  - He tempted Jesus in the wilderness.
  - He entered Judas to orchestrate the betrayal.
  - He tempted Peter to deny Christ three times.
  - He blinds the minds of unbelievers so they will not accept the truth.
  - He also desires to devour the saints (good thing we are protected by God).
- Scriptures follow on the next slide.



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- Luke 22:3 Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve.
- John 13:2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,
- Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32) but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
- 2Cor 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- 1Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

## Work of Satan

- Though it may be circumstantial, it is possible that Satan attempted to mess up the line of humanity since he knew from Genesis 3:15 that God would send a human deliverer to crush him.
  - Cain killing Abel.
  - Athaliah killing all of the sons of David (accept one).
  - Anti-Semitism – this is the most unique form of discrimination in existence (the whole world hates them).
- Satan also hates the Bible. He uses some governments to try to destroy it, and he uses false teachers to pervert the truth that is in it.



## Imitator

- Satan is also an imitator.
- He can appear as an angel of light according to 2 Corinthians 11:14.
- Just as God is a trinity, Satan will have his counterfeit with himself, the Anti-Christ, and the False Prophet.
- Just as God places a mark or seal on His people in Revelation, Satan does the same with the mark of the beast.
- Just as God rules the angels of light, Satan rules the demons of darkness.
- Those who are saved are said to be the children of God, whereas those who are lost are called the children of the devil.
- Clearly, the devil has an inferiority complex with relation to God. As a result, he tries to imitate.



## How Should We React to Satan?

- There are a few helpful principles.
- The first is the principle of respect. He is stronger than we are, so don't go out of your way to stick out your tongue at him. Consider the Archangel Michael's response to him.
  - Jude 1:9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."
- Another principle is removal.
  - When you get close to temptation, flee from it. Do not give the devil a foothold.
  - Ephesians 4:27 and give no opportunity to the devil.
- Another principle is resistance.
  - James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- Finally, the last principle is readiness.
  - Ephesians 6 tells us to place on the armor of God.

## Demonology

- Demons are simply fallen angels. The Greek word for them is daimon.
  - Revelation 12:7-9 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8) but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9) And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- This means much of what was said about elect angels must be true of demons.
  - They are spirits, powerful, intelligent, willful, and invisible. Like the angels of heaven, they are also organized, thus implying hierarchy.



## Demons

- Demons are part of their own kingdom of evil.
  - Matthew 12:24-26 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." 25) Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. 26) And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?"
- Concerning their destiny, they have frozen wickedness.
  - They cannot be redeemed. Christ did not atone for them.
  - Human sin was passed corporately through a single source, Adam, and thus could be atoned for in a single source – Jesus Christ.
  - Demon sin was chosen, not inherited. Therefore, every demon is a sinner on individual grounds (they became sinners because they sinned – we sin because we already were sinners).
  - Thus, every demon is a sinner on individual grounds, whereas every human is a sinner on the ground of Adam being a sinner.
  - We are redeemed because the just punishment for our sin was placed upon a single source, Jesus Christ. Thus, we enjoy grace and mercy.
  - This option is not available for demons.

## How Free are Demons?

- They are limited in what they can do just like Satan was in the book of Job.
  - They are only as free as God allows them to be.
- Some are freer than others.
  - 2Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;
  - What did these demons do to get themselves in that kind of trouble?
  - Some speculate that this has to do with Genesis 6, and the context supports this. (Jude 1:6 also may support this).
- Other demons seem to be free until the day of their judgment.
- Others are reserved for a special role in the end times.
  - Revelation 16:14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.
- Whether bound or free, all demons share the same ultimate end.
  - Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

## Work of Demons

- They are at times involved with physical diseases. Not every illness is attributed to demons. This is just one way demons inflict misery upon the sons of men.
- One example is blindness or muteness.
  - Mark 9:17 And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute.
  - Matthew 12:22 Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.
- They can cause what the world might label mental diseases.
  - Mark 5:3-5 He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, 4) for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. 5) Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

## Work of Demons

- Sometimes they are behind our temptations.
  - Most of the time, our temptations probably come from our own sinful nature as James argues (James 1:14).
- Demons are behind the many false doctrines that make their way into the church.
  - 1Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,
- Demons also do spiritual battle with the saints. Christians must remember DAILY that we are in a spiritual war. False doctrine is related to this.
  - 2Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,
  - Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

## Work of Demons

- Sometimes demons carry out the will of God.
  - Often they are ignorant of this fact.
  - An evil spirit accomplished the will of God in the life of King Saul.
  - God permitted a lying spirit to deceive King Ahab so that Ahab would die in battle.
- Demons possessed people.
  - This was seen in some of the previous verses, but what about today?
  - In pagan and darkened societies, there are many reports of demonic activity and possession.



## Demonic Possession

- Christians cannot be demon possessed since the Holy Spirit dwells within us. We are possessed by God.
- Within unbelievers, there are degrees of demonic possession.
  - Perhaps they only have enough control to get the person to do a certain act, like Judas.
  - Other times they have complete control over a person, such as the men in the tombs (Matt 8:28).
- Christians do not have to worry about possession, but demons can hinder our work for God.
  - 1Thessalonians 2:18 because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.
- Christians can also undergo demonic oppression.
  - They place themselves in situations they shouldn't, which opens the door for demons in their life. Anxiety and depression are sometimes the result.



## Demonic Possession

- How do people end up demonically possessed. There are probably a lot of means. Elmer Towns proposes the following process.
  - First it begins with obsession. People start to read, think about, and even practice the forbidden things of the occult. This is where the demon is invited into the person's life.
  - The second stage is the struggle for possession, where the demons attempt to take over. Some foolish people actually seek to be possessed. Christians who play around with certain occult things (like D&D) begin to be oppressed here, even though they cannot be possessed.
  - The third stage is that of subjugation. The demon subjects the person's desires and replaces it with their own. At this stage, they begin breaking down both the mental and physical health.
  - Fourth, there is full demonic possession, in which they control the full capacity of the possessed person.
- It is an opposite for Christians with the Holy Spirit.
  - First, we believe in Christ and the Holy Spirit indwells us.
  - Second, we struggle to work with the Holy Spirit as He along with our new nature war against our sin nature.
  - Third, the Holy Spirit aligns our desires with His as we seek His will.
  - Finally, as we grow in the Lord we strive to become a person that is completely sensitive to the Holy Spirit's will and to use our full capacity for the building of the church and the kingdom.

## Conclusion

- It would be wise for Christians not to become obsessed with demons or the devil.
  - This could open the door to possible oppression.
  - Instead, focus on the Holy Spirit and sanctification.
- There are powerful spiritual beings that represent two sides of a spiritual war that has been raging since the beginning of creation.
- We should take comfort that the majority of these beings minister to us in our needs, though unseen.
- The elect angels give us an example of service to God and righteousness.
- It is yet a sobering thought that fallen angels once stood in the presence of God, and they still chose to rebel against Him.

## Conclusion

- Studying this doctrine also alerts us to subtlety of temptation that we can expect from these enemies of ours.
- This study grants us insight into the ways of our enemy the devil.
- Ultimately, we should take confidence that even though our enemies are stronger than we are, God is infinitely stronger than they are and He has placed limits on what they are allowed to do.
  - 1 John 4:4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.