

THE ANGELIC HOST

LESSON 10

OUTLINE:

1) *Satan – His Present Position*

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

In our last lesson we saw how Satan planned to make himself equal with God. In doing so, he committed the first sin. Pride was the principle cause of his desire to break God's will. The question that must be raised at this point concerns what God did to Satan after he rebelled. Where is Satan now? What is he doing?

SATAN – HIS PRESENT POSITION

What is the location of the angels spoken of by Peter?

2 Peter 2:4 _____

(The angels referred to here are generally believed to have been a special group of angels whose sin made final God's decision to bring judgment by the Flood. Though they may have joined Satan in his original fall, they attempted sins that Satan and other fallen angels did not take part in.)

What is the final abode awaiting Satan and the angels who joined him?

Matthew 25:41 _____

(From these words Jesus is clear that this dreadful place was never meant to be the final abode of man. It was brought into existence just for Satan and his followers.)

The common notion held by many is that Satan and his angels have been imprisoned in hell ever since they fell. Being instantly cast out of heaven into hell, they are now forced to remain far away from God and the earth He made and populated with man. Are we to hold such notions as being truth? What light does the following Scriptures give on such an idea?

1 Peter 5:8 _____

James 4:7 _____

Luke 4:2 _____

Matthew 13:39 _____

Job 2:1-2 _____

Scripture seems to agree that God did not banish Satan to the Lake of Fire following his first sin. Rather, He has permitted him a long time of freedom, though he is not free to do anything he pleases. God still has final say over what evil Satan sets out to perform. What did God tell Satan which proves there are limits on what he is allowed to do?

Job 2:6 _____

Satan can only go as far as God will permit, and no further. This is true, not because Satan lacks the power or ability to go further, but because God steps in and restrains him.

Who did Jesus step in for on one occasion to stop Satan from accomplishing his will?

Luke 22:31-32 _____

Many believe that the phrase "Deliver us from evil," which is part of the Lord's Prayer, really should be interpreted as a prayer to be delivered from the tricks, intents and plans of the evil "one". What did Jesus once say to Peter, who was being used by Satan, which shows God always has the last word with the Devil, and that this word must be obeyed?

Matthew 16:21-23 _____

There can be no doubt that God removed Satan from his exalted position as the "anointed cherub that covereth" following his sin. However this does not mean that he was barred from all parts of the heavens. In the case of Job we read how Satan appeared before God and spoke of having come from the earth. The earth and the heavens above the earth seem to be the abiding places of Satan and his angels.

Jesus foretold something about Satan which He saw would take place at some future time. What was it?

Luke 10:18 _____

(The details of this actually happening are found in Revelation 12:7-9)

Until this happens, Satan has a great deal of liberty. He still maintains the position of going to and from earth as well as walking upon it. The earth seems to hold a special fascination to Satan. No doubt he has access to the many other planets, but for some reason he gives earth his special attention. What special title did Jesus give to Satan?

John 12:31 _____

Jesus does not refer to him as "King", but as "Prince", that is, as one who occupies a less position- implying his obligation to admit that God is still above him. No doubt some are wondering when Satan became "Prince of this world"? God's Word offers several hints which seem to say that Satan was Prince of this world long before Adam and Eve were ever created. There are several passages which cause such a conclusion to be reached.

Write in full 1:1-2, stopping at the word "deep":

The careful reader of this verse should be puzzled by the thought that an "Almighty" God created an earth that was "without form and void." This meant it was created an "empty waste" or a total ruin. How could a perfect Creator produce an imperfect earth? The prophet Isaiah plainly tells us how the earth first looked after it was created. Write in full what he said!

Isaiah 45:18 _____

Notice the words "not in vain." The Hebrew uses the same word here as in Genesis 1:2, but interprets it as "without form and void." Isaiah is saying that God **did not** create the earth without form and void. It was not a ruin as it was first created. The only answer we can offer regarding the seemingly contradiction is that we have a bad translation of Genesis 1:2. It seems more correct to render it, "and the earth **BECAME** (not was) without form and void," or "an empty waste or ruin." In other words, something happened between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 to make the earth appear a ruin. Genesis 1:1 refers to the earth as spoken of by Isaiah. Genesis 1:2 refers to the earth after something happened to it. What calamity could have happened to bring such ruin to the once perfect and beautiful earth? The only answer which seems to make sense is the fall of Satan. Where was Satan said to have been before he sinned?

Ezekiel 28:13 _____

Many contend the "Eden" here referred to was on the earth. The Eden Adam knew was a reconstruction of the first Eden. It appears possible that God entrusted to Satan the government of the pre-adamic earth, making him its "prince" or ruler accountable to God. This conclusion seems possible because of the boasts Satan made which were a part of his sin. Finish the words of Satan, noticing what he said he would attempt to do.

Isaiah 14:13 "I _____ heaven."

"I _____ stars of God."

Isaiah 14:14 "I _____ clouds."

The language used by Satan certainly implies that the geographical position he occupied was **below** the heaven where God dwelled. After attempting his rebellion, God brought judgment upon him and the earth. It was at this time the earth became without form and void. Thus Satan no longer had him a beautiful earth and Garden of Eden to reign over. From Genesis 1 we read that God "made" (reformed) the present world in which we now live. Like the first time, He provided a Garden of Eden. Only This time we are told of another who is to rule Who was it?

Genesis 1:27-28 _____

What did the Psalmist say was God's original plan for man?

Psalm 8:6 _____

Man was to be the "prince of the world", accountable only to God his King. Man did have rule over earth until what happened?

Genesis 3:4-6 _____

It was at this point that Satan regained his title as "prince of this world." From that day forward man would be his subjects, carrying out his will. When the Devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he offered Him the rule over men, which he held, if Jesus would only bow and worship him. What did Satan say which showed he had regained the right to be the "prince of this world"?

Luke 4:5-6 _____

Satan declared that all the kingdoms of the world were his subjects. Christ did not repudiate this claim. On the contrary, and on three different occasions (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11), Jesus said Satan was the "prince of this world." The world does not belong to Satan. But the people of the world do give him their allegiance. The real prince is to be Christ, for He does rightfully own the earth as His. Why does Christ have a right to claim the earth?

John 1:3 _____

The present position of Satan is that of being "prince" over the sinful masses of mankind. Unknown to sinful man, Satan is their leader or prince. It is his plans they are carrying out. He is the leader of all rebellion against God and His will. Satan is at present given a certain amount of freedom in the heavens and upon the earth.

