

## SATANOLOGY (23)

**Passage #4** - Another critical O.T. passage concerning Satan is Zechariah 3:1-2 .

Here is one of the most beautiful and important passages for both an O.T. and N.T. believer in the entire Bible. Certainly the primary interpretation is for Israel; however, there is N.T. evidence that will enable us to make a tremendous application.

Zechariah is given a vision (Zech. 3:1). He sees Joshua standing before “the angel of the LORD,” who is none other than Jesus Christ. Satan is also present and is standing ready to oppose or resist the whole program of God. Joshua is functioning as a “high priest” over Jerusalem, which is the chosen city of the chosen people of God (Zech. 3:2). Satan is against the program of God and is apparently accusing Joshua before God of his own sins and failures and also making accusations for the sins and failures of Israel. According to verse 3, Satan had a legitimate case against Joshua. In verse 4-5, we get a marvelous look at the pure grace and mercy of God. The “angel of the LORD” speaks (v. 4) and informs Satan that He (Jesus Christ) has taken all iniquity away (Zech. 3:4-5). Satan’s mouth is shut by the pure, powerful implementation of the grace of God. There was absolutely nothing Joshua could do, in and of himself, to remove the filth of his iniquity. Satan did have a case against Joshua, but his mouth was shut by the pure grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the parallel N.T. context, we see the same thing in Revelation 12:10-11 . It is clearly implied that until Satan is cast out of heaven at the half-way point of the Tribulation, he is still carrying out this accusing type of work. Satan loves to accuse the believer of past sins. However, once one has been clothed by Jesus Christ and washed in His blood, Satan’s mouth is shut. Our advocate is Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1) and His work defeats all satanic accusations.

**Passage #5** - One of the most significant O.T. passages concerning Satan is Job 1-2 .

In this text, we get a remarkable look at the methods and power of Satan. We must immediately observe that Satan is very interested in making a display of himself and his power in the presence of God’s holy angels (Job 1:6; 2:1). It is clear from this point that Satan tries, time and time again, to postulate the viewpoint in front of these holy angels, that it is very unpopular to follow and obey God. He promotes the idea that just about everyone follows him, not God. More than likely Satan’s purpose in this episode before the angels is not to try and recruit more, but to suggest that these holy angels made a very lonely decision when they chose to stay faithful to God. From this book of Job we learn eight powerful lessons about Satan:

**(Lesson #1)** - Satan has accessibility to God. Job 1:6; 2:1

We may assume that there are moments when Satan may move into the presence of God. We may conclude from Revelation 12:7-13, that this privilege will eventually be stopped. We know that Satan is not appearing before God to do anything God honoring or positive, so whenever he does appear it will be for satanic reasons. We may assume from this, however, that he does have some access to exclusive type of information discussed at the Throne of God.

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Whenever a church or individual would be the topic of positive discussion, Satan would gain knowledge of this and then proceed to attack or assault the individual or the church. We may also observe from this text that **Satan is always under the sovereign control of God**. If the believer or church remains faithful through the attacks and assaults, future blessing and compensation will be given by God.

**(Lesson #2)** - Satan can scan the whole earth. Job 1:7

Satan is not omniscient or omnipresent, but he does have access to worldwide information. His demons have a worldwide scanning and observing operation. They specifically look for those who are truly developing in a God honoring way. Their objective is to try and “devour” (I Pet. 5:8) the believer and prevent him from progressing in his relationship with God. This is why it is imperative that believers stay close to God and His Word. This is why it is critical that believers deal with things quickly before the sun goes down (Eph. 4:26-27). We know that both good and evil angels monitor the life of a believer.

**(Lesson #3)** - Satan knows godly individuals. Job 1:1, 8-9

This information is both thrilling and intimidating. There is no greater thrill for a believer than to have God speak highly of the faithfulness of one of His people (Job 1:8; 2:3). To have God give a positive evaluation of an individual at His Throne is the highest praise that any human could ever have. This text presents two very intimidating ideas: 1) God knows us intimately; 2) Satan knows us intimately. It is the first point that is most intimidating or at least it should be, but in realizing that Satan also knows godly individuals is also somewhat intimidating because it means various satanic trials, tests and assaults will come. We do know from the N.T. that Satan and his demonic forces know who is a powerful and faithful servant of God and those same forces know who isn't (i.e. Acts 19:15).

**(Lesson #4)** - Satan knows about God's sovereignty. Job 1:10; 2:4

In the context of Job's life, the sovereignty of God included control of business prosperity (1:10), family protection (1:18-19) and physical infirmities (2:4-6). Satan is very aware that God is the One who sovereignly cares for His people in these areas. We are very wise to remember this and remain faithful when we find ourselves under some form of attack in these areas. Remaining faithful can lead to the abundant blessings of God.

**(Lesson #5)** - Satan can negotiate with God. Job 1:9-11; 2:4-6; Lk. 22:31

These types of negotiations naturally would be concerning those who are very faithful because there would be no need of negotiating an attack against one unfaithful because Satan would already have that person where he wants him. We may make two observations about this:

1) God establishes the boundaries of the negotiations. Job 1:12b; 2:6

2) God abundantly rewards one who remains faithful. Job 42:11-17

Faithfulness through a satanic attack ultimately leads to abundant blessings from God.

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**(Lesson #6)** - Satan can influence people to stand against you. Job 1:15, 17; 4:1; 8:1; 11:1

Satan can and does attack a faithful believer by using other people. He may use lost people who are blatant enemies of God or he may use believers who are unspiritual and ignorant of God's Word, ways and will. In either case, he can and does use people to attack a faithful servant of God. Sometimes people may become very hostile and violent; however, the majority of N.T. texts indicate that most satanic attacks are verbal. Satan will orchestrate various people to verbally attack one who is faithful to God in an attempt to get him to turn in an unfaithful direction.

It is imperative that the faithful believers realize that those who have verbally attacked him/her are highly accountable to God (Job 42:7-10) and unless they make it right with the individual they wronged, God will refuse to bless and honor them and He even refuses to accept their worship and eventually this will cost them rewards at the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ.

**(Lesson #7)** - Satan can create cosmic disasters. Job 1:16, 19

With permission of God, Satan is able, at times, to create destructive fire and destructive winds such as tornadoes and hurricanes. He does have tremendous power and tries to use it to attack those faithful in an attempt to get them to turn away from God.

**(Lesson #8)** - Satan can cause physical disasters. Job 1:19; 2:5-6

With permission of God, Satan is able, at times, to cause the death of one who is close to one faithful. At other times, he is able to inflict some physical infirmity directly on one who is faithful.

In both cases Satan's goal is to turn the faithful person away from God. It appears that he only uses these measures when he realizes he is up against an extremely spiritual individual. In this case, he is after Job, who was classified by God as the most spiritual man on earth.

No satanic attack will be pleasant or easy to endure. However, the one who is under attack can find joy and comfort in knowing that a continual path of faithfulness will ultimately bring the great blessings of God.

One very important and critical verse to remember when considering satanic attack is Job 42:11.

This verse makes it very clear that **God's sovereignty prevails over every satanic attack.**

Satan cannot attack or assault a faithful believer in any way except in those ways that God permits and if God permits it and if a believer remains faithful to Him, God will highly honor and bless the individual.