

SATANOLOGY (22)

Satan attempts to get God's people, whether it is Israel or the Church, to take their eyes off a dependency on Him and put it on a dependency on them. Many churches and many believers neglect prayer meetings and private times of prayer because they have been duped into thinking they can accomplish great spiritual things on their own. God will always protect and provide for His faithful people and He desires that His people depend on Him and trust Him and any other perspective is satanic.

Passage #3 - Another critical O.T. passage concerning Satan is Psalm 109:6.

Here is one place where, in my opinion, the King James has the best rendering of the Hebrew text. Both the NASV and the NIV translate the name Satan with the English noun "accuser." As we have already studied, the name Satan is a name which refers to one who opposes God, one who is an adversary of God (*Satanology*, p. 4).

In Hebrew, the actual word that shows up here is the word "Satan," which is translated that way in the KJV. The Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew O.T., uses the Greek word for "devil," which is consistent with the meaning of "accuser" (*Ibid.*, p. 5). The precise Hebrew word used here is Satan.

Now the context of this Psalm is that David is praying that God will pour out His vengeance on David's enemies. It is very clear from verses 1-4 that David had many enemies who were speaking out against him and were opposing him. David prayed (vs. 4-6) that God would take care of his enemies. He specifically prays that the one behind all of this would have his life shortened (v. 8a), have a brief reign (v. 8b), have his children barren (v. 9a), have his wife a widow (v. 9b) and have his children be perpetual losers (v. 10).

One question arises as to how God would answer such a prayer? Who would God use as an agent for sending this type of destruction upon David's enemies? The answer is God would use Satan (Ps. 109:6). **The important lesson we learn from this text is that God can and does use Satan as an agent to answer prayers of judgment.**

Many believe this prayer was made during the rebellion of Absalom and was specifically against Ahithophel, the traitor (II Sam. 15:31). If this is true, the prayer was directly answered (II Sam. 17:14, 23). Ahithophel ended up committing suicide under satanic influence.

Several years ago, I heard of a man who was once involved in Satan worship. He said that in certain instances it was possible to ask Satan to harm someone and it happened. The Bible teaches that it is possible to ask God to have Satan harm someone and it could happen. In fact that is precisely what Paul did do in the N.T.—I Cor. 5:5; I Tim. 1:20.

Satan is always under the umbrella of God's sovereignty. If he is permitted to harm someone, it was God who permitted it for His purposes. Proper theology realizes God works out His sovereign will and can even utilize Satan and his forces to do it.

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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.