

Subject: *Biblical Truth about Satan – Part 4*

Scripture: *Genesis 3:1-13*

We have Scripture to reveal our enemy and his strategy against us. We are looking at Satan's work in the world. We should know about his methods and his tactics.

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* Satan is stalking his prey. He is looking for the weak, the isolated, the self-confident, and the careless. He is looking for all who overestimate their ability and underestimate his ability. If you're not watching for Satan, he is watching for you.

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (methods, tricks, hidden agenda) of the devil.*

2 Corinthians 2:11 *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices (schemes, plots, strategies).*

1. Satan controls the present world system (2 Cor. 4:4; Jn. 12:31; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:1-3)

- A. He is "the god of this world (age)" (2 Cor. 4:4)
- B. He is "the prince (ruler) of this world" (John 12:31)
- C. He controls the thinking and values of this world (Eph. 2:1-3)

Satan controls the false thinking of humanism, materialism, liberalism, relativism, and pragmatism.

2. Satan rules over a vast evil kingdom (Mt. 25:41 Eph. 2:2; 6:12)

- A. Hell is prepared for "the devil and his angels" (Mt. 25:41)
- B. He rules over an organized and complex network of evil (Eph. 6:12)

The spirit world is part good and part evil. Everything that is spiritual is not necessarily good. If you go into a general bookstore like Barnes and Noble or Books-A-Million, you will likely find a section of books on religion or spirituality. Don't assume that everything in those books is truth.

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.* ***1 John 4:6*** *We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

3. Satan accuses and slanders (Job 1, 2; Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10)

- A. Satan falsely accuses and slanders people. He is "the accuser of the brethren."
- B. Satan falsely accuses and slanders God.

4. Satan causes suffering (Job 1, 2; Lk. 13:16; Acts 10:38; Rev. 2:10)

Satan cannot hurt God, but he can and does inflict suffering on many people. We should understand that not all suffering comes from Satan. He is limited by the power and will of God. As with Job, Satan may be allowed to attack, but he must operate within God's prescribed limits. Not all sickness is directly from Satan, but he can cause physical illness as well as mental and emotional disorders (Mk. 5:2-5; 9:20-22). Paul was buffeted (tormented) by "the messenger of

Satan” (2 Cor.12:7). This may refer to someone under demonic power. Satan will unleash demonic attacks during the Tribulation Period (Rev. 9:1-11).

5. Satan tempts (Gen. 3; Mt. 4:1-11; Jn. 13:2; 1 Cor. 7:5; 1 Th. 3:5)

He tempts us to disobey God, to be proud and self-sufficient, to lie, to be occupied with this world, to satisfy God-given desires in an ungodly way, and to rely on human wisdom and strength apart from God.

A. Satan creates doubt (Gen. 3:1)

In the Garden of Eden he deceived our first parents, Adam and Eve, by creating doubt about God's command (Yea, hath God said?). He tried to plant negative thoughts about God in their minds (You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?), implying that God was holding something back from them. This strategy is still very powerful, especially with young people.

B. Satan deceives (Gen. 3:2-4; Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:13-14; 2 Th. 2:9-10)

Satan is the father of lies. Deception was Satan's first weapon and his weapon of choice (Rev. 20:3, 7-10). The last description of Satan is “the devil that deceived them.” He first deceived himself by thinking he could usurp God's authority. He understands the power of deception. Satan deceived Adam and Eve by denying the authority of God's Word (You shall not surely die (Gen. 3:4). Through deception Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers so they will not understand the Gospel and accept Christ (2 Cor. 4:4). He convinces people that religion and morality are acceptable to God as substitutes for salvation and the new birth.

6. Satan distracts (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

As the god of this world, he distracts believers and unbelievers with the things of this world. He causes people to focus on pleasure, possessions, and position (1 Jn. 2:15-17). These worldly distractions are rightly called "amusements" ("not to think"). Satan tries to distract us so we won't think about what is important: God, Christ, God's Word, our eternal soul, judgment, heaven, and hell.

7. Satan hinders God's work (Mk. 4:15; 2 Cor. 2:10-11; 1 Th. 2:18)

He steals the truth of God's Word when it is sown. Did you know that he is active at church? He knows how people are saved. **Romans 10:17** *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* He does everything possible to prevent us from hearing and taking the message to heart. Satan sows his own seeds of discord, division, and discouragement. One of God's greatest blessings is unity (Ps. 133:1). One of Satan's greatest tactics is to disrupt unity, to divide and conquer churches and families. He hinders the spread of the Gospel and the work of God's people. Paul said “Satan hindered us” (1 Th. 2:18).

8. Satan murders and destroys (Jn. 8:44; Heb. 2:14)

Satan promises life and pleasure, but he delivers misery and death. He was “a murderer from the beginning,” which refers to the record of Genesis 3 and 4, including the sin of Adam and Eve and Cain's murder of Abel. Satan has the power of death (Heb. 2:14), but in Christ, death has no power over believers. In Christ we are saved from sin's penalty by justification, sin's power by sanctification, and sin's presence by glorification.

9. Satan counterfeits (1 Cor. 10:20-21; 2 Cor. 11:14-15; 1 Tim. 4:1)

He promotes false teaching and false religion. The Bible speaks of Satan's throne (Rev. 2:13), synagogue (Rev. 2:9; 3:9), and communion table (1 Cor. 10:21). Satan has false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1), and false ministers (2 Cor. 11:13-14). In Satan's counterfeit system there are false Christs or antichrists (1 Jn. 2:18-22). These are forerunners of the Antichrist, who will one day promote himself as God and deceive many people through miracles (2 Th. 2:3-11). Satan also has counterfeit believers (Mt. 13:38-39). Satan attacks the church from outside through persecution and from inside through counterfeit methods, counterfeit messages, and counterfeit messengers.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal.*

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT SATAN – PART 4

The Activity of Satan in the World

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- A. He may inflict suffering, but not all suffering comes from Satan.
- B. He may be allowed to attack, but he must operate within God's prescribed limits.
- C. He may cause mental and emotional disorders (Mk. 5:2-5; 9:20-22).
- D. Paul was buffeted (tormented) by “the messenger of Satan” (2 Cor. 12:7).
- E. Satan will unleash demonic attacks during the Tribulation Period (Rev. 9:1-11).

5. Satan _____ (Gen. 3; Mt. 4:1-11; Jn. 13:2; 1 Cor. 7:5; 1 Th. 3:5)

- A. Satan _____ (Gen. 3:1)
- B. Satan _____ (Gen. 3:2-4; Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:13-14; 2 Th. 2:9-10)

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Revelation 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

6. Satan _____ **(1 Jn. 2:15-17)**

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* ¹⁷ *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

7. Satan _____ **(Mk. 4:15; 2 Cor. 2:10-11; 1 Th. 2:18)**

Mark 4:15 *And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

8. Satan _____ **(Jn. 8:44; Heb. 2:14)**

Hebrews 2:14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil*

9. Satan _____ **(1 Cor. 10:20-21; 2 Cor. 11:14-15; 1 Tim. 4:1)**

- A. Satan's throne (Rev. 2:13)
- B. Satan's synagogue (Rev. 2:9; 3:9)
- C. Satan's communion table (1 Cor. 10:21)
- D. Satan's false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1)
- E. Satan's false ministers (2 Cor. 11:13-14)
- F. Satan's false Christs or antichrists (1 Jn. 2:18-22).
- G. Satan's false believers (Mt. 13:38-39)

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