Section: Doctrine of God

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Lesson 17**

**“Angels, Demons & Satan” Questions 19,20 &21**

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**Q19. What are angels?**

Angels are created spiritual beings who have limited power and are under God’s control.

**1. Angels Are Created Spiritual Beings**

In Job 38 we hear God set Job straight by declaring all that Job wasn’t present for in creation. In this we are given insight into who was present at the time of creation. Listen…

**Job 38:4-7** “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone,

**7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?**

This is a reference to the angels worshipping God in Joy at the creation.

“sons of God” are a reference to the angels. Sons of God is also a title used of God’s chosen people but that is not who are being referenced here.

**The different titles given to Angelic beings in scripture are:**

Angels (meaning.. Messengers), sons of God, spirits, holy ones, watchers, cherubim, living creatures, seraphim.

We don’t know exactly when the Angels were created because the bible doesn’t tell us specifically.

We do know that: **Before creation there was only God.** God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit eternal and perfect in unity and power.

This means that the Angels are a part of the creation and we know that they were present at the time of creation. We DO know that by the time creation is finished they are on the scene. At the end of the sixth day it is proclaimed … *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. (Genesis 2:1)*

We also know this because the fallen Angel, Satan is on the scene in chapter three at the fall of mankind.

Because the angels were created it means they are not eternal like God is.

They had a beginning in God’s creative work at some point.

We know angels are created because the scriptures declare it so:

**Colossians 1:16-17** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

While this is an amazing proclamation of God as creator it also serves us to have clarity that anything both in the heavens and the earth, the visible and the invisible, other dominions and this dominion. God is the creator of them.

The references to **principalities** and **powers** (Eph. 3:10; [6:12;] Col. 2:10); **dominions** (Eph. 1:21; Col. 1:16), **thrones** (Col. 1:16), **powers** (Eph. 1:21; [Rom. 8:38–39;] 1 Pet. 3:22) are all terms that point to a distinction in rank and dignity among the angelic beings God created.

Look at ***John 1:1-3*** *with me..*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Here, John tells us that **ALL** things where created by Jesus and incase that is not enough clarity, John says, everything that is made was made by Him.

**Psalm 148:2-5** Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and **they were created.**

What’s included in the created here: “all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!”

***Nehemiah 9:6*** *"You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.*

**The critical point we want you to understand is that they are created beings.** (This is a critical point as we will see later, because no angel or fallen angel (including Satan) is on the same level as God because they are a part of his creation. He is high and above all that he has created.

Another insight into this is given in:

**Matthew 22:30** For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Angels do not marry and they do not procreate. They are created and brought about by God alone.

So angels are unique from Man, they are not like mankind, who is made in God’s image but they are created like mankind is created and therefore under his full authority and purpose.

One might wonder… **How many Angels are there?**

The bible tells us that there are many.

We do not know the total number of angels but we have many references to understand that they are many. Jesus said in the Garden at the time of his arrest.. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? **Matthew 26:53**

A “legion” was a military term used to speak of 5,000 soldiers. So 12 legions is Jesus speaking about 60,000 angels.

Daniel references many angels in his vision of the final judgment… “a thousand thousands served God, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him” **Daniel 7:10**

John speaks of his view of the throne room of God this way:

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” **Revelation 5:11-12**

a myriad is a reference to 10 thousand.

John see’s “myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands” worshipping god as part of the heavenly choir.

*\*Sabaoth [hosts] and Mahanaim [camps] (Gen. 32:1–2), legions (Matt. 26:53), host (Luke 2:13), and the numbers of [myriads or] a thousand times a thousand (Deut. 33:2; Ps. 68:17; Dan. 7:10; Jude 14; Rev. 5:11; 19:14).*

Consider with me what this says about our God. By his free will and by his simple word be created a race of angelic beings. This is a part of God’s creation that I think sometimes is out of our view because it is not specifically spoken in the creation account in a way see it in plane view.

But Scripture helps us see it ….and it is awesome…. God is awesome!!!

**The Rank of the Angels:**

The First mention of the **elect angels** in scripture is cherubim God charges to guard Eden in

**Genesis 3:24***He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Later the “*cherubim”* are depicted in the tabernacle and the temple facing the mercy seat with wings that cover the mercy seat where the presence of the Lord resides.

These are highly positioned beings who reveal the power, majesty, and glory of God; they are charged with the task of guarding the holiness of God in the garden of Eden, in the tabernacle and temple.

*Another distinct group of Angels is mentioned in Isaiah 6.* In distinction from the cherubim, *the Seraphim* stand as servants around the king, who is seated on his throne; they acclaim his glory and await his commands. In the prophets the “living Creatures” with varied faces are standing guard with eyes front and back in the presence of the Lord.

Among the angels seraphim are the noble ones and the cherubim are the powerful.

The seraphim guard the holiness of God; the cherubim serve at the altar and effect atonement.

In Daniel we further encounter two angels often referred to as “archangels” who are specifically named: **Gabriel** (8:16; 9:21) and **Michael** (10:13, 21; 12:1).

In the NT the angel **Gabriel** appears in Luke 1:19, 26.

And **Michael** appears in Jude 9, Revelation 12:7, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Finally, In John’s portrayal of the Apocalypse, seven angels repeatedly and clearly come into view (Rev 8:2, 6; 15:1; etc.).

The celestial hierarchy that we can see according to scripture is formed by three classes of angels.

1. The first and highest class exclusively serves God; it is the seraphim, who unceasingly behold the being of God; and it is the cherubim, who ponder his decrees; and the thrones, who adore his judgments.

2. The second class of angels serves the visible and invisible creation according to God’s will.

3. The third class of angels is appointed to serve mankind. They are the ones who foster the general well being of human beings; the archangels, who guide particular nations; and the angels, who watch over individual persons.

Let’s next consider the…..

**The Ministry of the Angels:**

Angels have a public and a private ministry assignment.

**Their public ministry** among men has highlights throughout scripture of:

* We first see the angels play a role in guarding Eden (Gen. 3:24);
* They go onto bless or to punish the patriarchs and prophets and people throughout the entire Old Testament.
* They appear to Abraham (Gen. 18), to Lot (Gen. 19), to Jacob (Gen. 28:12; 32:1);
* they function in the giving of the law (Heb. 2:2; Gal. 3:19; Acts 7:53);
* they take part in Israel’s war (2 Kings 19:35; Dan. 10:13, 20);
* they announce the counsel of God to Elijah and Elisha, to Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah.
* They are present at the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:13, 26–38; 2:10ff.)
* and at his temptation (Matt. 4:11);
* they accompany Jesus throughout his entire earthly life (John 1:51)
* and appear especially at the time of his suffering (Luke 22:43), resurrection (Matt. 28), and ascension (Acts 1:10).
* We see them reappear from time to time in the history of the apostles (Acts 5:19; 8:26; 12:7ff., 23; 27:23; Rev. 1:1);
* Then they cease their extraordinary ministry and will only resume a public role at the return of Christ (Matt. 16:27; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 2 Thess. 1:7; Jude 14; Rev. 5:2; etc.),
* Then, they will do battle against God’s enemies (Rev. 12:7; 1 Thess. 4:16; Jude 9),
* They will gather the elect (Matt. 24:31),
* They will cast the ungodly into the fire (Matt. 13:41, 49).

**The private ministry** of the angels are the ways that they work to serve God and protect man in ways we don’t see or know. **This is the ministry of angels today.**

**Scripture says:**

* They rejoice over the conversion of a sinner (Luke 15:10),
* They watch over believers (Ps. 34:7; 91:11),
* They protect the little ones (Matt. 18:10),
* They are present in the church (1 Cor. 11:10; 1 Tim. 5:21),
* They follow the church on its journeys through history (Eph. 3:10),
* They are taught by the church (Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:12),
* They carried believers into Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16:22).

**Are angels at work still today?**

Yes, the scriptures are clear that their “private ministry” continues today but their public ministry has ended with the time of the apostles and will return when Christ returns.

**Hebrews 13:2** says, Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Here me clearly here, Church: **We need not concern ourselves with the spiritual realm in a way that we are looking for something God has not commanded us to concern ourselves with. The elect angels are at work in all the perfect ways God has called them to be but that is not of concern or a focus for us.**

Now, Some are all to quick to dismiss the work of angels, and the reality of evil and the realm of the spirits which God’s word makes clear is a real and present thing.

Some are all to quick to only believe in what they can see. To live this way is to dismiss faith in the one we cannot see but we know is there, Jesus Christ.

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **1 Peter 1:8**

Understand, our belief in Jesus is not based on feelings or experience but on God’s revealed written word and work in our lives. This is the same kind of faith we have in the present activity of angels and demons. Not because we see them but because God’s word says it is so and He has given us faith to believe His word.

The other end of the spectrum is also a place we should avoid.

To many people in pursuit of extra ordinary experiences and or who are confused by drugs or other fleshly error are all to often to be convinced they experienced the spiritual realm in ways scripture doesn’t speak of.

**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?**

**The mind of man is unreliable and wicked.** We must be oh so careful to not make the spiritual world or spiritual experiences something they are not. We must not move beyond scripture and concern ourselves with things that are not for us. More on this in a moment…

Finally, before moving on. It is essential that we do not pray to angels. We pray to God the Father, through God the Son by the power of God the Holy Spirit. That’s it. We do not pray to angels, dead saints or dead loved ones. We pray to God.

Why we would choose to pray to any other created entity when Christ has reconciled us to be able to talk to God himself is beyond me. But this is still worth clarifying. Moving on…

The second key point in our Catechism answer is:

**2. Angels Have Limited Scope and Power**

***The*** Holy Scriptures are clear that great power is ascribed to angels;

It’s good to know that angels are not timid beings **but an army of mighty beings** (Ps. 103:20; Col. 1:16; Eph. 1:21; 3:10; 2 Thess. 1:7; Acts 5:19; Heb. 1:14).

***But the bible also gives these insights that help us see their boundaries:***

**angels are spirits** (Matt. 8:16; 12:45; Luke 7:21; 8:2; 11:26; Acts 19:12; [23:8;] Eph. 6:12; Heb. 1:14),

**angels do not marry** (Matt. 22:30),

**angels are immortal** (Luke 20:35–36) \*but they are not eternal like only God is. Meaning they had a beginning.

**angels are finite and limited in power and presence.**  They are not omnipresent like God and they do not know our secret thoughts like God. They do not know the future.

**angels are only masculine** Every reference to angels in Scripture is in the masculine gender.

The Greek word for “angel” in the New Testament is “*angelos*” which is in the masculine form.

The places in scripture where angels were manifest into view are always described as men.

(Genesis 18:2, 16; Ezekiel 9:2). This is a good place to recognize that people often frame up the way they think about something by what they have been told or have scene in our lifetime.

So, because you have scene a number of angels portrayed as feminine or as little girls we must be willing to correct this thinking with scripture. This has happened because we have applied the term angel as being a description of something gentile, soft and sweet. *My little angel*. But again, biblically speaking angels are not soft, gentile and sweet. They are powerful, strong, masculine beings created by God to do his work and will. Pop culture shouldn’t dictate how we think about things…. God’s holy word should.

**3. Angels Are Under God’s control.**

Elder Matt did a wonderful job in the last two week’s of helping us see that God’s word is clear to proclaim that all things are under God’s rule and control, and nothing happens without His direction.

Providentially, He is a God who works, not just some things, but all things after the counsel of His own holy will. Paul says clearly in his letter to the Ephesians that God “works all things according to the counsel of his will” **Ephesians 1:11**

God's purpose is all-inclusive and is never thwarted. It is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things but that He does so always and without exception. God is the supreme Being who answers to no one and who has the absolute right to do with His creation as He desires.

**Daniel 4:35 says,** all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

The simple point is: We are not God who is the almighty creator, sustainer and ruler of everything.

So when we read verses like:

**Ephesians 6:12** 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.

We need to remember this is our spiritual battle but it is not God’s battle.

God has never lost his position or power. He is at war with no foe.

All who are created are under his sovereign rule and power. While there are many things that are against God and act as enemies of his glory. God is not at war with anything. He is above all things.

The angels and the demons and as we will see later, Satan, are all under the sovereign rule of God.

Therefore they are limited in their power and authority.

Now, with that let’s move into our next question and specifically fallen angels.

**Q20. What kinds of angels are there?**

The Bible tells us of two kinds of angels: elect angels and fallen angels (demons).

Elect angels are those whom God ordained not to fall but to serve and enjoy God and His ways. Fallen angels (demons) are evil angels who sinned against God and now continually work evil in creation. There is no redemption for fallen angels.

This catechism answer helps us see that there are essentially two major categories the angels fit into and then within those categories are ranks and different tasks. The *elect angels* are those whom God has ordained are and remain faithful to him and the *fallen angels* are those who have rejected God and made it their mission to have their own glory and to try to upset the glory of God by perpetuating evil and wickedness in creation and among men.

Let’s first look at the…

**Elect Angels:**

Paul gives them this important distinction in…

***1 Timothy 5:21*** *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.*

***These are the ones we have studied in large part so far this lesson.***

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! **Psalm 103:20**

**Fallen Angels:**

God’s word has also made it clear that there are many created angels who abandoned their position to serve God and rebel against him unto their forever demise.

**Jude 6** And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day

The Bible says they *“did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling”* (Jude 6) in contrast to *“the elect angels”* spoken of in (1 Tim. 5:21) who were given grace to remain sinless.

The fallen angels are most often referred to as **demons.**

The word demon/demons is used 122 times in the New Testament. It is used three times in the Old Testament. All three of these uses of the word link demons to idolatrous worship.

***Leviticus 17:7*** *So they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices to goat demons, after whom they whore. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.*

***Deuteronomy 32:17*** *They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.*

***Psalm106:37*** *They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons;*

**The Scriptures do not speak about how the angels fell or what caused them to rebel against a good, loving and gracious God or why they would follow a tyrannical leader like Satan.**

**But they are real and they are at work and must be taken seriously.**

**Demon’s power:**

Demons possess the power of angels. This is a power that is greater then humans but far less then God.

**Demons have the ability to do the following:**

1. Indwell humans and animals (Mark 5:1-16, Matt 12:43-45)
2. Physically afflict people (Mark 9:17, 22)
3. Terrorize humans (1 Sam 16, Acts 19, 2 Cor 12)
4. Initiate false worship (1 Cor 10:20-21)
5. Promote False Doctrines (1 Tim 4:1)
6. Perform false signs and wonders (2 Thes 2:9, Rev 16:13-14)
7. Deceive prophets (1 Kings 22:19-23)
8. Encourage Idolatry (Deut 32:17, Ps 106:37)
9. Engineer death (Judges 9:23, 56-57)

One thing I want you to be very mindful of and our catechism is specific to qualify this:

Demons only do what God has permits them to do. They are never outside of His sovereign rule.

The deceiving of Prophets and engineering death are only done at the will of God. It is his will for his ultimate purpose but it is their doing of the evil act thereby making God not guilty.

**This brings me to the limitations and weaknesses of Demons”**

1. They unwittingly serve God’s purposes (Judge 9:23)
2. They were terrified of Christ and the gospel ( Matt 8:29, Mark 1>24, James 2:19)
3. They obeyed Christ (Matt 8:32
4. They obeyed the twelve disciples (Matt 10:1-8 and the 72 that Jesus sent our Luke 10:17-20)
5. They cannot separate believers in Christ from the love of God (Romans 8:38)
6. They can be restrained by the Holy Spirit (2 Thes 2:6, 1 John 4:4)
7. They have been judged already by God (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6) and will be again in the future (Rev 20:10)

This brings me to a big question that many often ask or don’t understand according to scripture:

**Can true Christians be possessed (demonized) by demons?**

**Possession=** When a demon(s) takes dominant control over the victim by which the victim cannot resist

**Historically:** There is not one biblical example where a true believer is indwelt with an evil spirit.

**Theologically:** The bible is clear that what belongs to and is secured by God doesn’t belong to or can’t be taken hold of by the enemy and or his evil spirits.

**2 Cor 6:14-16** Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; ..

When we are saved the scriptures declare we are delivered from Satan and transferred into Christ kingdom. **Col 1:13-14** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**The bible is clear about the power we have in Christ over our enemies.**

**Romans 8:37-39** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2 Cor 1:21-22** And it is God **who establishes us with you in Christ**, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also **put his seal on us** and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

**Eph 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you **were sealed** for the day of redemption.

**1 John 5:18** We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and **the evil one does not touch him.**

Therefore, **If a person is demonized (possessed physically by a demon) it means they are an unbeliever. If they are an true believer then what is scene or experienced is a great outplay of sin and or physically/mental ailments and is NOT demon possession.**

**What should we do if we ever encounter a demon?**

If we encounter a demon possessed person in our earthly pilgrimage then we should:

1. **Appeal to God confidently in prayer**
2. **and speak the truth and power of God’s word and the gospel in their presence.**

By no power of man are demons exorcized but only by the power of God does this happen.

With my limited time remaining let’s look at our third question and the most famous demon, Satan.

**Q21. Who is Satan?**

Satan opposes God as the chief of all fallen angels by deceiving, tempting, and lying. Satan only has the access and ability that God permits him.

The Hebrew word for Satan basically means **“adversary”.**

**1 Kings 22:21-22** and **2 Chronicles 18:20-21** refer to him as a **“a lying spirit”.**

In the NT the term Satan or Devil means **“Evil one”.**

**Satan’s Fall:**

Satan was created at the same time as all the other angels, and because God said that His creation was good we can infer that Satan had not fallen yet. Originally created as a chief angel at the level of Michael the archangel (Jude 9). He was the first of the Angels to rebel and was promptly thrown out of heaven along with myriads of fallen angels who followed his lead.

Satan now rebelliously leads a band of evil angels (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9). Although he is an angel of darkness, he disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). (Which means he likely doesn’t look like we often portray him, Remember He is the master deceiver.)

We must also remember that Satan is an angel and nothing more. He is a lying, evil spirit.

**But please don’t dismiss him, for he is real.**

Satan is spoke of more often in Scripture than all other evil angels combined, and of twenty-nine references in the Gospels, Jesus spoke of him twenty-five times.

Satan is referred to as “the prince of demons”(Matt. 12:24), the undisputed ruler of a host of evil spirits that inhabit the cosmos as surely as humanity inhabits planet earth.

Satan is “the prince of the power of the air”(Eph. 2:2), which includes all unregenerate humanity and all fallen angels.

Satan is “the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4), the whole world order that rejects the Creator and substitutes the creature.

Speaking to unregenerate people, Jesus said,

**John 8:44** (NASB) “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

John later adds…

**1 John 3:8** Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

**The Power of Satan:**

Satan’s power is equal to Michael the archangel and no human conceived of man has the supernatural power that belongs to Satan.

Scripture tells us that Satan is powerful in the heavens (1 Kings 22:19-23, 2 Chron 18:18-22, Job 102)

and on the earth (Job 1:7, 1 Peter 5:8)

He rules the world’s sinful system (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Eph 6:12, Rev 13:2, 4-5, 7)

And Satan constantly accuses believers before God (Rev 12:10)

In scripture he is given many titles that help us have better insight into the work of Satan.

Let’s look at those as a way to see the depth of how truly evil Satan is.

**The Work of Satan:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Meaning** | **Citation** |
| Satan | Adversary | Matthew 4:10 |
| Devil | Slanderer | Matthew 4:1, Rev 20:10 |
| Evil one | Intrinsically Evil | Matt 5:37, John 17:15, Eph 6:16 |
| Great Red Dragon | Destructive Creature | Isa 27:1, Revelation 12:3, 7, 9 |
| Serpent of old | Deceiver in Eden | Revelation 12:9 |
| Abaddon | Destruction | Revelation 9:11 |
| Apollyon | Destroyer | Revelation 9:11 |
| Adversary | Opponent | I Peter 5:8 |
| Beelzebul | lord of the fly | Matthew 12:24 |
| Belial | Worthless | II Corinthians 6:15 |
| God of this world | Controls philosophy of the world | II Corinthians 4:4 |
| Ruler of this world | Rules World system | John 12:31 |
| Prince of the Power of the Air | Controls unbelievers | Ephesians 2:2 |
| Enemy | Opponent | Matthew 12:28 |
| Tempter | Solicits people to sin | Matthew 4:3 |
| Murderer | Leads people to eternal death | John 8:44 |
| Liar (Father of Lies) | Perverts the truth | John 8:44 |
| Accuser | Opposes Believers before God | Zech 3:1, Rev 12:10 |
| Lucifer | Day star | Isa 14:12 |

To focus in on the work of Satan turn with me to Genesis chapter 3.

**Genesis 3:1**Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

**"Really?"** he asked the woman. **"Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?"**

**1-Satan attempts to distort or deny the truth of God’s word**

**Genesis 3:2-4**And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.”

**2-Satan attempts to blur the consequences of sin**

**Genesis 3:5**"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

# 3- Satan attacks how we trust and view God

### SATAN’S also uses things like ….

**Doubt-** Questioning God’s word and his goodness

**Discouragement-** Looking at your problems rather than at God

**Diversion -** The wrong things seem attractive so that you will want them more than right things

**Defeat-** Feeling like a failure so that you don’t even try

**Delay-** Putting off doing something good and God honoring so that it never gets done

**Satan wants nothing more than to offer up the trap!**

Bait us with -wealth, -pleasure, -fame, -acceptance, & so on!

This is why the scriptures are clear to say… Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8**

**The Limitations of Satan**

Praise God that Satan is not unleashed and out of control. He is under the sovereign authority of God almighty.

*What we must understand is, Satan is not a formidable foe of God’s.*

*God and Satan are not on an even playing field engaged in the cosmic battle of all battles.*

*You have maybe seen modern pictures portraying Satan and Jesus arm wrestling.*

*This is nonsense. This is unbiblical.*

**Colossians 1:16** For by him (Jesus) all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—

In Job we read that Satan only did what God allowed him to do to Job.

**Satan is NOT omniscient.** No were in Scripture does it give Satan the power to read minds or now anything exhaustively. **Satan is on a leash with his power.** God limits how far or what Satan can do to Job.

We should see the sovereignty of God in this, also that nothing comes to us without the express permission of God.

God promised the defeat of Satan in Genesis 3:15 and on the Cross Jesus conquered sin and death on behalf of the redeemed people of God. AMEN!

**While you and I are still at war with the work of the flesh and the temptation of sin and the powers of darkness we are claimed and secure in the victory of Jesus Christ!!!!**

**We fear no one but God. We need to remember God is sovereign….. Satan is not!**

**The Judgment of Satan**

One thing Satan has been and will be forever good at is being judged and condemned by God.

**Satan’s Original judgment:**

**Ezekiel 28:15-16** You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

**Satan’s Edenic judgment:**

**Genesis 3:14-15** The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

**Satan’s Calvary judgment:**

In **John 19:30, Jesus cries out**  **“It is finished,”**. **(John 12:31, 16:11,19:30)**

This is the final blow to sin and death on behalf of God’s elect. This is a fulfillment of God’s promise to defeat Him on behalf of His people.

In John’s first letter he says..

**1 John 3:8** Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

**Satan’s Eternal Judgment**

***Revelation 20:9-10*** *And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever*

* **Closing Encouragements**

Church, in closing: **With all of this in view let us remember who we are in Christ.**

**Victorious and secure by God’s power. We are more than conquerors.**

Listen to John’s words to the church in…

**1 John 2:13-14** I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

**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.

That said: **We are at war and therefore we must stay alert.**

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. **Ephesians 6:12**

We must…

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8**

Maybe the best and most simple scripture encouragement comes to us from a recently familiar passage as we I recently preached this in the letter of James:

**James 4:7**

**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

—Martin Luther

*And though this world with devils filled  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him.  
His rage we can endure,  
For, lo, his doom is sure.  
One little word shall fell him.*

**Let’s pray**