



Satan & His Angels

Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

Who is Satan?

Satan is an angel, a spirit being created by God. Satan rejected the authority of God and so he is a fallen angel.

What other names for Satan have you seen in the Bible?

Satan has many other descriptive names in the Bible: the devil, dragon, the evil one, the angel of the abyss, the ruler of this world, ruler of the demons, god of this age, the accuser of the brethren, the prince of the power of the air, Apollyon, Abaddon, Belial, Beelzebub, and Lucifer.

How do we know that Ezekiel 28:12-15 is talking about Satan?

Ezekiel 28:12-15 - Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

It says that he was in the Garden of Eden. We know this can't be referring to Adam or Eve because the passage goes on to say he was an anointed cherub which we know to be a class of angel that is close to God. Satan took the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden to deceive Eve.

Revelation 12:9 - So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Why would the Bible refer to Satan as the king of Tyre?

- The king of Tyre was a type of Satan. As Satan used human kings as his pawns, he was behind the power of the king of Tyre. There were many kings of Tyre but behind them all was Satan pulling the strings. Satan has all the rulers of this world under his power... Jesus referred to Satan as the ruler of this world in John 12:31. Some rulers yield their power to Satan more

than others but all of them compromise to some extent or another, this is the nature of politics.

- Tyre was a nation-state known for its idolatry and wickedness (Isaiah 23:1, Jeremiah 25:22, Ezekiel 26-28, Amos 1:9-10, and Zechariah 9:2-4). Tyre was a place that God prophesied would cease to exist (Isaiah 23:1)... indeed Tyre was completely leveled by Alexander the Great.

What else does Ezekiel 28:12-15 tell us about Satan?

Satan was created perfect as a holy angel, he was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. He was adorned in precious jewels and the presence of timbrels and pipes indicated that he made music. He was a covering cherub which meant he was in the presence of God, protecting God throne from the presence of any unholiness.

Does Satan still have access to God?

Yes, see, Job 1:6-12. Satan accuses us before God; that is why we need Jesus Christ as our mediator...

Revelation 12:10 - Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

How does what we learn about Satan from Ezekiel contrast with the common view of Satan?

Many think that Satan's power is on par with God, that is not the case because Satan was one of God's creations. Satan is often depicted as a despicable horned beast but this passage indicates that Satan is a creature of great beauty...

2 Corinthians 11:14 - And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

What better way for Satan to attract people away from God than to lure them with his beauty.

What can we learn about Satan from Isaiah 14:12-15?

Isaiah 14:12-15 - How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.

This passage gives the motivation that Satan had when he rebelled against God. Satan envied God's power and authority and he sought this for himself. Notice the

selfishness of his reasoning with the repetitive use of the term “I will.” This passage also addresses the power Satan has over the nations of the world where he says he, “weakened the nations.”

What does Isaiah 14:15 say will become of Satan?

Satan will do time in the bottomless pit, a hold pen for fallen angels awaiting judgment...

Revelation 20:1-3 - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

Where will Satan spend eternity?

Satan will be cast into the lake of fire where he will spend eternity with all who have rejected God and followed him...

Revelation 20:10 - The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

What are demons?

Demons are the fallen angels that are subordinate to Satan.

What other terms besides demons are used for fallen angels in the Bible?

Demons are also referred to as “familiar spirits” (Leviticus 19:31), “unclean spirits” (Mark 1:23-27), “evil spirits” (Luke 7:21), “seducing spirits” (1 Timothy 4:1), and “foul spirits” (Mark 9:25).

What does Ephesians 6:10-13 tell us about the mission of Satan and his army of fallen angels?

Ephesians 6:10-13 - ¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Satan has an agenda to oppose the will of God. God wants to see people saved and Satan wants to see them in hell. Satan and his angels work the world system to lure people into staying in their fallen state. He also wants to see people die before they’ve had a chance to repent.

What would Satan’s agenda be for people who know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord?

Satan still seeks to oppose God’s will in the life of a believer, to render us ineffective so that we will not fulfill the purpose God has intended for us. If a Christian can be sufficiently distracted by the world, then they are not serving the Lord and can not be used by Him to lead others to salvation.

How is our struggle as Christians in this world like warfare?

- Not only do we struggle with the common calamities of human life we also struggle with the opposition of the powers of darkness, and with many enemies who would keep us from God and heaven.
- We have enemies to fight against, a captain to fight for, a banner to fight under, and certain rules of war by which we are to govern ourselves.
- Paul liked the analogy of our struggle being like that of soldiers:

2 Tim 2:3-4 - You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Why are we told to pray, “deliver us from the evil one” in the model prayer Jesus gave us in Matthew 6:13?

Because spiritual warfare is very real and we need God’s help to resist the spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places.

What does Ephesians 6:10 have to say about where a good soldier of Christ gets his strength?

The Christian gets his power to combat Satan and his demons from the Lord, this should make us courageous in our spiritual warfare.

Why is it important to be courageous in our struggles?

A soldier may be well armed with the latest advanced-technology weapons but if he is not courageous, he is of no use on the battlefield.

What does Ephesians 6:11 have to say a good soldier of Christ must do?

Christians are commanded to be well armed against our spiritual adversary: “Put on the whole armor of God”

What does it mean to put on the armor of God?

Putting on the armor of God means to make use of all the proper defensives and weapons for repelling the temptations and stratagems of Satan.

Why must the Christian be completely armed?

So that he may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil:

1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

How is it that the devil devours people?

- He causes them to be consumed by Satan agenda which is anything that is opposed to God's will.
- Thus unbelievers stay outside God's Kingdom and believers become un-useful to God.

What are the wiles of the devil?

- The devil makes assaults against us using both force and deception. He plots against us and lays snares for us to lure us away from God's will for us.
- He has a thousand ways of beguiling unstable souls: hence he is called a serpent for subtlety, an old serpent, experienced in the art and trade of tempting. Satan revealed his strategy in Genesis 3 where he lied by subtly changing what God said.

What does it mean to stand against these wiles of the devil?

To stand against the wiles of the devil means to hold out and not give in to whatever enticements to turn away from God that the devil throws at us.

What does it mean in Ephesians 6:12 that we wrestle not against flesh and blood?

The combat for which we are to be prepared is not against ordinary human enemies, not against men of flesh and blood but it is a spiritual battle.

Since we wrestle not against flesh and blood, is this just symbolic of our old nature that we wrestle against? Does this mean that we have met our enemy and they are us?

- This is not talking about our old sin nature. We too are flesh and blood. Our old corrupt nature is part of our being human.
- It is not the flesh that is to be fought.
- It is not other men that are to be fought.

How else can we tell that this passage is not talking about our old sin nature?

Verse 11 names the devil as our adversary who is a created being, a fallen angel.

If our enemies are not flesh and blood, what are they?

- They are spiritual enemies: Spiritual wickedness in high places, or wicked spirits, as some translate it.

- The several ranks of fallen angels, who have an organization which they exercise in this world.

How is it that the fallen angels have an organization?

God established order, the angels use the hierarchy of authority God established to organize...

Col 1:16 - For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Satan not only deceived Adam and Eve, he lured his own kind, other angels to reject God and took them with him...

Revelation 12:4 - His tail [of the fiery red dragon] drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

This passage indicates that a third of the angels became, or will become fallen, following Satan.

How does Paul characterize this enemy that we struggle against?

- He is a powerful enemy: Principalities, and powers, and rulers. They are numerous, they are vigorous; and rule where there is darkness.
- There is a demonic world all around us.

What are "principalities"?

Demons who have regional responsibility and supervise other demons, they would be the senior officers in Satan army. They are however subservient to thrones and dominions (see Colossians 1:16).

What are the "powers"?

Powers are the privates of Satan's army, demons wanting to possess human beings.

How does demon possession manifest itself?

- In being tempted away from God.
- Delighting in darkness rather than light.
- They cause afflictions, physical and mental.

Can demons possess Christians?

No... because Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit:

1 Cor 6:19 - Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

With the Holy Spirit in you, there is no place for demons:

2 Cor 6:14 - For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

The Holy Spirit is able to protect Christians from any demon that would want to possess them...

1 John 4:4 - You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Jesus told a parable which indicated that a person can be purged of a demon but if he does not receive Christ into his life, the demon will return with friends (Matthew 12:43-45).

What is the message of the parable given in Matthew 12:43-45?

Matt 12:43-45 - "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

- That any purging of evil in your life would be temporary if Jesus is left out.
- Reformation through human effort may last for a season but will ultimately fail. So seek regeneration, not reformation.
- I have seen this in the life someone I know who is an alcoholic. She has had several bouts of getting dried out then falling off the wagon. It is an endless series that will eventually kill her if she doesn't turn to Christ.

Since demons can not possess Christians, does this mean they are not a problem for born again believers?

No, Eve was not possessed but was still tempted. Job was not possessed but was still afflicted.

What kinds of things do people do that open themselves up to demons?

They allow sin to persist in their lives. They try to contact the spirit world outside of God Himself. This reminds me of a bumper sticker I saw which proclaimed, "where there is a witch, there is a way." This bumper sticker did not elaborate on the direction that path would lead.

What is the darkness of this age?

- Satan's kingdom is one of darkness and deception; whereas Christ's kingdom is one of light and truth.
- The dark parts of the world are the seat of Satan's empire, where men are in a state of sin and ignorance: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

What are the rulers of the darkness of this age?

Demons who have charge of Satan's worldly business who is the chief ruler...

Matthew 12:24 - Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

John 12:31 - "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."

I clipped a little article from the Nov. 12, 2000 Houston Chronicle on satanic graffiti found on a firebombed church in Suffern, NY that said, "Satan rules the earth." This is very true but what those followers of Satan don't know is that this earth is headed for destruction.

What makes our enemy more dangerous than a physical adversary in the world?

The devil is a spirit, a wicked spirit; and our danger is the greater from our enemies because they are unseen, and assault us where we are aware of them.

What do the wicked spirits do?

They chiefly provoke the saints to, spiritual wickedness, pride, envy, malice, etc; things that cause separation from God and conflict between people. These evil spiritual forces are working in the world against the believer, the church, and against Christ.

What does it mean that our enemies are in heavenly places?

- Heaven has been taken as the whole expanse of the air between the earth and the stars, the air being the place from which the devils assault us. The Bible represents the earth's atmosphere as the first heaven (Daniel 7:13) and the stars as being the second heaven (Genesis 1:14-18). The third heaven is the spiritual realm where God resides (2 Corinthians 12:2).
- Satan is described as the prince of the power of the air...
Eph 2:2 - you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience
- Spiritual wickedness in high places also refer to demons in the heavenlies who have charge of religion.

Are our enemies less dangerous to us because they are in heavenly places and we are in the world?

- No, because they concern themselves with heavenly matters, there is eternal impact in their activity.
- Our enemies strive to prevent our ascent to heaven, to deprive us of heavenly blessings and to obstruct our communion with heaven.
- They assault us in the things that belong to our souls, and labor to deface the heavenly image in our hearts.

Can you think of any examples of spiritual warfare in the Bible?

Daniel prayed three full weeks about a prophecy the Lord had given Him and an angel came to help him understand.

This angel also explained why it took three weeks to answer Daniel's prayer:

Dan 10:12-13 - Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

The angel sent to help Daniel understand was in conflict with a demon and he needed backup that he received.

Is there a connection between what happens in the world and what happens in the spiritual realm?

Certainly. I believe Jesus made this clear when He told us that Jesus would build His church on the foundation of knowing that Jesus is the Son of God:

Matt 16:15-19 - He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Why in Ephesians 6:13 do we only need to stand if we are to engage the enemy?

It is the Devil who will make the attack, it is his nature...

Revelation 9:11 - And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. [which means destroyer]

Why is it better to stand than to attack?

A defensive posture is always stronger than the aggressor, particularly if you can eliminate the element of surprise.

How do we eliminate the element of surprise in the spiritual battle?

By knowing the enemies tactics... studying the Bible helps us understand and thus be prepared for the wiles of the devil.

What do the words, "*and having done all*" add to our standing against the devil and his kind?

- This means that we should do all we can to avoid the devil's snares putting on all the armor that the Lord has provided for us.
- Our victory is incumbent on our being good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

What is the evil day?

- This age we live in where Satan is free to ply his trade to tempt people to sin.
- Paul already said that we should make good use of our time (Satan will tempt us to just put off what we should do – sins of omission)...

Eph 5:15-16 - See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

How do we stand against the devil?

- We must resolve, by God's grace, not to yield to Satan
James 4:7 - Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- If we distrust our cause, or our leader, or our armor, we give him advantage.
- We must stand (oppose him) well armed with the whole armor of Christ.