

Scripture Reference: Job 1:6-12

Date: September 15, 2013

Title: "Satan"

Focus: Is Satan real? (Biblical World View Series 8 of 10)

Intro:

1. Some believe Satan to be a concoction of the Greek mind as a personification of evil. Denying the reality of Satan leaves one unprepared for his schemes, plans, and attacks.
2. In Job, the oldest book of the Bible, readers see Satan as a real being. As one who is engaged in activities intended to undermine the person and work of God. Such are not the attributes of a literary personification. But, a real adversary.
3. As we examine this verse, leave behind what you think you know about Satan. Instead, see him as he is in a context of truth, his encounter with God.

Body:

v. 6; Satan is a Being of the Created Order

Not enough details of this event are provided for us to understand precisely what is taking place. What we do see is that as creator, God is actively engaged in overseeing His creation.

In the discharge of that responsibility, He calls to account those parts of creation which inhabit the spiritual realm. This is the non-ph

One of those elements is Satan. This brings us to the first important fact about the devil. He is a created being.

As such he is dependent upon and subject to his creator God.

Satan is not god nor a god. He is not all-powerful, not able to transcend all the laws of nature, not able to know all things, or be all places.

He is a subject of the Most High God. As such he is subject to the authority of God.

Satan realizes this:

vv. 11-12; "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.' So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord."

Why don't we realize this? We have been deceived into giving Satan more power, authority, and ability than he possesses. We have ascribed to him attributes which are not his.

Seeing him in a dishonest light, we respond to him ineffectively.

vv. 7-10; As a Created Being, Satan is

v. 7a; Satan is accountable to God; God calls Satan to account for his actions, which he does not question, but promptly answers up to.

The book of Revelation echoes this accountability of Satan and reveals his ultimate judgment. - Revelation 20:10

v. 7b; Satan is a Legitimate but *Limited* Threat; in response to YHWH's inquiry Satan says he has been, "*roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.*"

Peter elaborates on this, characterizing his roaming as "*like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*" (1 Peter 5:8b)

Satan seeks those who are vulnerable, weak, and isolated.

But, though he roams seeking prey, a people do not have to make themselves vulnerable to him.

Again Peter says, "*Be of sober spirit, be not he alert.*" (1 Peter 5:8a)

vv. 8-9; Satan is the "*accuser of the brethren*" (Revelation 12:10)

Accusation, condemnation, criticism, all these are tools of his.

Learn to recognize them. Flee the use of them. Avoid accepting these into your life, from others or from yourself.

Romans 8:33-35 & 37; "*Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who*

condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

v. 10; Satan is restricted in his actions

Contrary to his propaganda, Satan cannot do whatever he desires. God restricts and limits the actions he can take.

Why would God allow Satan any opportunity?

Because God uses what Satan intends for harm towards other purposes.

Through "*testing*" you are built up in your trust in God (faith) - James 1:2-4

By trials a "*greater weight of glory far beyond all comprehension*" is being worked out. - 2 Cor. 4:17-18

Closing:

1. Satan is not the undefeatable foe we accept him to be.

2. Make no mistake, he is a threat. But, for the disciple of Jesus, "*You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*" (1 John 4:4)

3. The answer for the follower of Jesus regarding Satan is, "*submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*" (James 4:7)

4. Those outside of covenant with God, have no resource to call upon in Satan's attack.