

## "YOUR ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL"

1Peter 5:8

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is a great deal of discussion regarding the origin of the Devil.
  - 1. Note: "By Him" - (Jesus) "all things were created." Col 1:16
  - 2. Satan's origin is not in himself. If self-existent, he could accurately claim equality with God.
  - 3. "All things were created through Him and for Him." When Satan was created, he was made for the Lord.
- B. Man was created to serve God, but chose to sin, Satan evidently was created good, but chose evil. (Note Gen 1:31 with Col 1:16)
- C. Angelic beginning? Because Satan possesses supernatural abilities, yet is less than God, highly probable he was originally an angel.
  - 1. Angels are fallible 2Pet 2:4 and some forsook their role Jude 6
  - 2. Satan has angels or servants Matt 25:41 - at some point, Satan and his angels were ejected from heaven Rev 12:7-9
- D. Certainly, I do not claim to be an authority on the origin of Satan, but these verses suggest his being a "created" being.
- E. Regardless of his origin, we do know something of Satan and his work

### DISCUSSION:

- I. **ACTIVITY OF THE DEVIL (SATAN)** (Satan Mk 4:15) (Devil Lk 8:12)
  - A. He is the source of all sin 1Jhn 3:8-10
    - 1. Devil... put in heart of Judas to betray Jesus Jhn 13:2
    - 2. Satan filled Ananias' heart to lie Acts 5:1-3
    - 3. Some referred to as "a synagogue of Satan" Rev 3:9
    - 4. Whatever not from God's word is sin - Faith comes by hearing Word Rom 10:17; whatever is not of faith is sin. Rom 14:23
    - 5. Sin is lawlessness. 1Jhn 3:4; All unrighteousness is sin 1Jhn 5:17; To know to do good and... not do it... is sin Jas 4:17
  - C. He diverts attention away from gospel
    - 1. He veils truth, blinding people to glory of gospel 2Cor 4:3-4
    - 2. Darkness is his weapon Acts 26:17-18
  - D. Father of lies, his work to deceive world. Jhn 8:44
    - 1. Devil has always deceived mankind 2Cor 11:3; Gen 3:1-13 (see Rev 20:2)
    - 2. Don't think of the Devil as a horned, pointy-tailed, pitchfork-wielding beast 2Cor 11:14-15
      - a. Imagining him as a picture of evil ignores his deceptive nature; renders him harmless to expect him to look bad
      - b. Must be perceived as having appearance of "an angel of light," not that we know what an angel looks like, but the point is that Satan looks innocent!
    - 3. Satan lies deceives and deludes 2Thess 2:9-12
    - 4. Satan deceives by distorting God's word to say something other than what He meant by it Matthew 4:5-6
      - a. Thus the need for rightly dividing word of truth 2Tim 2:15

- b. Otherwise twist scriptures to own destruction 2Pet 3:16
- c. Those who suggest God's word can mean different things to different people are the servants of Satan

### III. POWER OF THE DEVIL (SATAN)

- A. Satan is subordinate to the Lord.
  - 1. Jesus has all authority, so Satan is less powerful Matt 28:18
  - 2. Even power to crucify Jesus came from above Jhn 19:10-11
- B. His actions require permission from God
  - 1. Powerless to harm Job til God allowed it Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6
  - 2. That with which he tempted Jesus delivered to him Lk 4:1-13
  - 3. Satan required permission to work against Peter Lk 22:31
  - 4. God decides limits of temptation 1Cor 10:13; 2Pet 2:9

### IV. DOMAIN OF THE DEVIL (SATAN) - WHERE HE LIVES OR STAYS

- A. Earth - Satan roams the earth Job 1:6-7; 2:1-2
  - 1. Jesus spoke of "the ruler of this world" as one who will be judged and who has nothing in Christ Jhn 12:31; 16:11
  - 2. World lies under the sway of the wicked one 1Jhn 5:18-19
  - 3. Was cast to earth, where he works to deceive world Rev 12:9
  - 4. Must not desire world (Satan's realm) Jas 4:4; 1Jhn 2:15-17
- B. Not Hell
  - 1. Hell was "prepared for," not **by** the devil Matt 25:41
  - 2. In "the lake of fire and brimstone," the devil will receive his torment. He will not be tormenting others Rev 20:1-10

### V. RESISTANCE OF THE DEVIL (SATAN) IS A MUST

- A. Resist him, by being sober, vigilant, and steadfast 1Pet 5:8-9
- B. None "resist the devil" who do not "submit to God." Jas 4:7
  - 1. The devil flees from those who know how to withstand him
  - 2. The tempter departed from Jesus when He quoted scripture to answer each temptation Matt 4:1-11
    - a. Avoid sin by having God's word in our hearts Psa 119:11
    - b. "The wiles of the devil" should be confronted with "the whole armor of God." Eph 6:10-18
    - d. Knowledge of the enemy's tactics is a valuable asset to use toward his defeat 2Cor 2:11

### CONCLUSION

- A. We must not provide the devil any opportunities Eph 4:27
  - 1. By failing to be busy with God's work, we leave a vacancy that Satan is happy to fill Lk 11:24-26
  - 2. We must keep our desires in check Jas 1:12-16
- B. By conquering death, Christ overcame the Devil. We can overcome him by submitting to Christ Heb 2:9-18