

Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Principles Unit 4: Challenges & Opportunities of Spiritual Growth
Week 1: Satanology - Origin and Overt Tactics

Introduction

C. S. Lewis spoke of the two most common errors people tend to make about Satan: "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

Scripture and Satan's Existence

Old Testament: Gen. 3:1 (see also Rev. 12:9 "the serpent of old"); Lev. 17:7; Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:37; 1 Chron. 21:1; Job 1,2; Zech. 3:1,2.

Jesus Christ: Interacts with and speaks more about Satan and demons than any other biblical character. Mt. 4:24; Mt. 6:13; Mt. 13:19; Mt. 13:36-43; Mt. 25:41; Lk. 4:2-13 (and parallels); Mk. 5:2-19 (and other exorcisms); Lk. 10:17-20; Jn. 8:44; 2:31; 13:27; 14:30; 17:15

- The gospel authors are careful to differentiate demonic activity and other sicknesses.
(**Luke 4:40-41f**) And while the sun was setting, all who had any sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on every one of them, He was healing them. (41) And demons *also* [emphasis added] were coming out of many . . .

(**Norval Geldenhuys**) "It is noteworthy that it is distinguished (especially in the gospel of the physician, Luke) from cases of ordinary sickness, insanity, leprosy, blindness, lameness, deafness, and other natural defects and diseases (cf., Matt. 4:23,24; 8:16; 10:8; Mark 6:13; Luke 4:40; 7:21,22). . . .Neither is it only a kind of physical disease, although spiritual and physical disease often accompany it (e.g. Matt 12:22,

17:15; Mark 9:18). (Norval Geldenhuys, *Commentary of the Gospel of Luke*, [Grand Rapids, Mi.: Wm.B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1988], p. 174.)

Rest of the New Testament:(see Acts 5:3; 16:16; Eph. 1:21; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; James 2:19; 1 Pet. 5:8-10; 1 Jn. 3:8; 5:19; Jude 1:9; Rev. 12:9-11)

Origin and Fall of Satan: Ezekiel 28 & Isaiah 14

Ezekiel 28:1-19

Verses 1-10	Verses 11-19
<p>¹The word of the LORD came again to me saying,</p> <p>² "Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, `Thus says the Lord GOD, "Because your heart is lifted up And you have said, `I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the heart of the seas'; Yet you are a man and not God, Although you make your heart like the heart of God—</p> <p>³Behold, you are wiser than Daniel; There is no secret that is a match for you.</p> <p>⁴"By your wisdom and understanding You have acquired riches for yourself, And have acquired gold and silver for your treasuries.</p> <p>⁵"By your great wisdom, by your trade You have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of your riches—</p> <p>⁶ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, `Because you have made your heart Like the heart of God,</p> <p>⁷ Therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you, The most ruthless of the nations. And they will draw their swords Against the beauty of your wisdom And defile your splendor.</p> <p>⁸ `They will bring you down to the pit, And you will die the death of those who are slain In the heart of the seas.</p> <p>⁹ `Will you still say, "I am a god," In the presence of your slayer, Although you are a man and not God, In the hands of those who wound you?</p> <p>¹⁰ `You will die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of strangers, For I have spoken!' declares the Lord GOD!""</p>	<p>¹¹Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,</p> <p>¹² "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, `Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.</p> <p>¹³"You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared.</p> <p>¹⁴ "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you <i>there</i>. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.</p> <p>¹⁵ "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you.</p> <p>¹⁶ "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.</p> <p>¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.</p> <p>¹⁸ "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade, You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you.</p> <p>¹⁹ "All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified, And you will be no more.""</p>

Ezekiel 28:11-19 – About Satan or not?	
Reasons <i>for</i> vv. 11-19 referring to Satan	Reasons <i>against</i> vv 11-19 referring to Satan
<p>1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • <p>(1 Cor. 10:19-20) What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? (20) No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>1.</p>
<p>2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	<p>2.</p>
	<p>3.</p> <p>Response to this:</p>

Ezekiel 28:11-19 is consistent with other Biblical teaching on Satan:

1.

2.

3..

4.

Isaiah 14:12-21 -- Many interpret this passage as also referring to Satan.

Reasons For Satan	Reasons Against Satan
Vs 12: "fallen from heaven"	could be figurative language (taunt; see vs 13)
Vs 12: "star of the dawn" = Lucifer = Satan	The Hebrew word is "helel", the Greek, "heosphoros" — neither can be translated "Lucifer". Lucifer is the Latin word for Venus — the "morning star." It wasn't found in the Bible until translated into the Latin (at the earliest in the late 4th century or early 5th AD) (see KJV). It is circular reasoning to state this word is referring to Satan since nowhere else in the Bible is this word used as a noun! This can easily refer to mythological gods.
Vs 13,14: aspiration to equality w/ God "clouds" & "recesses of the north"	common for kings to claim this (Ezek 28:2) refers to the dwelling place of the Canaanite gods
Vs 16,17,21: has global dominion ("earth;" "world")	Neither "earth" (erets) nor "world" (tebel) are necessarily global (erets is translated "country" in vs 20).
	The context is a human king with a human kingdom (vs 3,4,22,23). Unless we can show compelling reasons why we should break context, we should assume that vs 12-21 is about a human king (i.e. of Babylon or more likely Assyria. We know that Assyrian kings referred to themselves as kings of Babylon
	He is described as a man: He dies & is buried (vs 11,19,20). "Sheol" means "the grave" - not the abyss. He is called a man (vs 16). He has descendants (vs 20b,21).

Conclusion:

Additional biographical information about Satan:

1. He evidently persuaded one-third of the angels to join him in his rebellion against God (Rev. 12:4,9).
2. He then led the first humans into his rebellion (Gen. 3), after which their dominion over the earth was forfeited to him (this will be an important point to recall in future weeks).
3. He opposes God's redemptive work by trying to hinder people from being reconciled to God (Matt. 13:39,41; 2 Cor. 4:4), and seeking to neutralize believers from being effective for Christ (Eph. 6:11).
4. We don't know his proper name. Satan, Beelzebub, and Devil are all descriptive titles.
5. He was substantially defeated at the cross (Col. 2:15) and will be completely vanquished at the return of Christ. His doom is sure (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

Satanology: Overt Tactics

Definition:

A. Demon-Possession

Symptoms: (Mk. 5:2-13)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Note:

Can Christians be possessed?

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

1 John 4:4* 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.

B. Subjection

2 Timothy 2:24-26; Acts 5:1-10

Symptoms:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Reasons for subjection or possession

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- Deut 18:9-13**
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C. Individual Persecution

Symptoms:

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Deliverance from Overt Satanic attacks

Victory Is Ours In Christ

While the New Testament has much material about the destructive power and activity of Satan, it emphasizes Christ's authority and victory over him and the believer's consequent spiritual freedom.

Christ's victory over Satan

- 1 Jn. 3:8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- Col. 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- Jn. 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.

Christians' freedom from Satan's Authority

- Col. 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
- 1 Jn. 4:4* 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.
- Rom. 8:38,39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Deliverance is possible only through Christ and only if the person will turn to him.

Renunciation:

(Acts 19:18,19*) Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. (19) And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

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Counselor's Work:

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Memory Verses

Deut. 18:9-12** - occultic practices forbidden

Ezekiel 28:11-19** - origin of Satan

Acts 19:18,19* - renunciation of occultic involvement

1 Jn. 4:4* - Christians need not be afraid of demons because of Christ

Assignment

Complete Satanology Passages #1 assignment.