

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Devices of Satan

Selected Passages

Keywords: Death, Satan, Devil, The Fall, Temptation, Word of God, Spiritual Warfare

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SermonAudio Blurb: Genesis 3 is the explanation for everything that is broken, vile, and foolish in our hearts and in this world. Up to this point all is good and both the man and woman dwell in pure innocence before one another and before God. But this is all about to change. Before unpacking this important chapter we will first examine the person of Satan and how he interacts with both God and us. In doing so we will be better equipped to stand firm against him and his efforts.

I. Introduction.

- A. A quick look at Genesis 3.1-7:
 - 1. Questions that have a hidden agenda attached.
 - 2. Not knowing properly the command of God.
 - 3. Being deceived.
 - 4. Being left alone to think about it, until it led her astray.
 - 5. Husband took it with full knowledge – no deception, showed whom he loved.
 - 6. They died immediately.
 - 7. Self-awareness controlled them from that day on.
 - 8. They tried to fix things their way.
 - 9. All started with the work of Satan.
- B. It is this last issue that we will look at in this sermon. I want to give you a basic primer on Satanology.
 - 1. Satan is alive and well on the planet earth. But he and his methods are some of the most horribly misunderstood by the Church. The result is battles where nothing actually exists.

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2. 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 says, “But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; **for we are not ignorant of his schemes.**”
 - a. Its meaning revolves around the idea of reasoning. It involves the idea of plots, strategies, or schemes.
3. The emphasis is upon the thinking process of the plot.
- C. Ephesians 6:11 says, “Put on the full armor of God, **that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**”
 1. “Schemes” means “cunning strategy, methodology, or deceitful plots.”
 2. The emphasis here is upon the plot itself.
- D. This is what happened in the Garden of Eden.
- E. Before we can understand what are the schemes of Satan we must first know a little about Satan himself.

II. Satan, as defined by the Word of God.

- A. By refusing to even name him, the devil is not accorded even the smallest expressions of respect in the bible. He is nothing and no one.
- B. “Satan.”
 1. This word is not a proper name, but rather, it is a descriptive name. The bible never actually gives him a name. It is a way of mocking him and demeaning him. He does not even rate a name.
 2. It occurs 14 times in the OT and carries the idea of “**adversary.**”
 3. Whenever it is referring to the devil it has the article in the Hebrew.
 4. Job 1:6-9, 12
 - a. Note what is at the core of Satan’s efforts.
 - b. Accusing Job.
 5. Zechariah 3:1,2 says, “then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, ‘The LORD rebuke you, Satan!’

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Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”

- a. Note again what is at the core of his efforts.
- b. Accusing Joshua the high priest.

C. “Devil.”

- 1. This is also a designation rather than a name.
- 2. 34 times in the NT it refers to the person of Satan.
- 3. It carries the idea of “**slander.**”

D. “The evil one.”

- 1. There are 9 references to Satan this way
- 2. This descriptive phrase refers to his innate character as being **essentially evil.**

E. “The ruler of . . .”

- 1. “. . . this world,” John 12:31.
- 2. “. . . the power of the air,” Ephesians 2:2.
- 3. “. . . the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,” Ephesians 2:2.
- 4. “. . . the demons,” Matthew 12:24.

F. “The god of this world.”

- 1. 2 Corinthians 4:4, “in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- 2. This refers to the world system, which is innately fallen and evil.

G. “The accuser.”

- 1. Revelation 12:10.
- 2. An illustration of this is the first two chapters of Job.

H. “Adversary.”

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1. This word convey the idea of an enemy or opponent. It usually refers to the one at a court who is the accuser.
2. 1 Peter 5:8, “Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- I. “The one who deceives.”
 1. Revelation 12:9.
 2. This reveals a character of lies and deceit.
- J. “The father of lies.”
 1. John 8:44.
 2. The word “father” indicates that the source of all lies find their beginnings with Satan.
- K. By simply reviewing these various designations for the devil we are able to already gain a clear sense of what he is and how he operates.
- L. With this basic understand let’s now take a look at what type of schemes Satan commonly uses against both the believer and unbeliever.

III. Satan’s program.

- A. As mentioned before, 2 Corinthians 2:11 and Ephesians 6:11 both teach that Satan has definite schemes or agenda items.
- B. His program with regard to those who are unsaved.
 1. He “owns” them.
 - a. 1 John 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.”
 - b. The picture is of a small child comfortably nestled on the lap of his mother.
 2. He blinds them, trying to prevent the Word of God from reaching their hearts.
 - a. Luke 8:12—The parable of the soils.
 3. He incites and encourages them to do evil.

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- a. 1 John 3:10-12, “By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.”
 - (1) Because our Father is God we will practice righteousness.
 - (2) Because their father is the Devil they will practice evil.
- C. What is Satan’s schemes against you?
 - 1. He will slander and accuse you.
 - a. Job 1 and 2 is the preeminent illustration of this.
 - b. Remember, too, that this will occur before God and before men. He will incite, tempt, and encourage others to accuse you, seeking to debilitate you as a believer.
 - (1) Satan’s devices are designed to assist others in doing their sinful desires.
 - (2) As an aside I find it quite puzzling and amusing how some will try to say that Satan is already bound so that he no longer can deceive the nations. This comes from a very poor grasp of Revelation 20 and it stands in stark denial of the many passages the bible gives to describe a being who is anything but bound at this time.
 - 2. He will try to thwart you as you serve Christ.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 2:18, “For we wanted to come to you-- I, Paul, more than once-- and *yet* Satan thwarted us.
 - b. The word “thwart” refers to digging or cutting a trench across a road, making it impassable. Satan somehow cause thing to slow down Paul’s plans and desires.
 - c. **Application.** This shows that we must stay focused on godly goals. Then, when resistance from the outside occurs, to press on, not letting extraneous events to get in the way. We can have a

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wrong view of sovereignty and simply give up and say that it wasn't God's will.

3. He will incite persecutions against you.
 - a. Revelation 2:10, "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."
 - b. This is linked to 1 John 3:10-12 where Satan incite the unsaved to commit sin.
4. He seeks to bring disunity within the Church.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 2:5-11.
 - b. When you see fights going on, you know what it happening. You can rightly interpret the situation. Behind all of the mess is Satan working, exciting your lusts and chaos is reigning.
 - c. This is a key reason why Paul is always speaking of unity to the various churches he writes to.
 - d. Disunity disrupts and destroys an effective church. It is a Satanic work.
 - e. Think of the amount of time spent on strife within a church. It is an effective plot to keep the church from its central task of leading unbelievers to Christ, then building them up in the faith so that they reproduces as well.
5. He tempts you.
 - a. Acts 5:3, Ananias was tempted by Satan to hold back some money and then lie about it.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 7:5, when a person refuses to have sexual relations with his or her spouse, Satan uses it as a point for temptation to occur.
 - (1) This is linked to the point before regarding disunity. For this is a common area of strife among couples, a successful but throughly evil bargaining chip.

6. REVIEW.

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- a. You can basically lump these into two major categories.
 - (1) Slander.
 - (2) Deception.
- b. **These** are the schemes of Satan.
- c. **These** are what he is busy doing.
- d. He is for more subtle than those within the deliverance ministries would have you believe.
 - (1) This is why his servants are called servants of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
 - (2) This is why Christ warns us of those who enter the church as wolves in sheep clothing (Matthew 7:15-22).

IV. How to defend against Satan's schemes?

- A. You use the Word of God.
- B. Satan hates the Scriptures for they reveal him and his plans for what they are.
 - 1. **Illustration:** A man may say that accusations he made were unfortunate exaggerations, but the Word of God calls them to be lies.
 - 2. Notice in the following passages Satan's reaction to the Word.
 - a. Matthew 13:19, Satan snatches away the Word of God.
 - (1) It is sitting on a hardened heart but Satan knows what the Word can do and is not willing to just leave it lay.
 - b. John 8:44, "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."
 - c. The way to fight lies is to bring truth to bear on it. Then it is obvious.
 - d. 2 Corinthians 11:14ff, notice that when he wants to achieve any damage in the church he takes on the appearance of righteousness.

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True righteousness is a result of the Word impacting your life
through the worked of the Holy Spirit.

- C. The writers of the Bible clearly tell us what to do in response to these schemes and attacks of Satan.
1. Matthew 4, when Christ is tempted His response was **to reveal the temptations as deceptions**. He did it by showing that the temptations did not square with God's Word.
 2. John 17:15-17, "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."
 3. 2 Corinthians 10:1-5.
 4. Ephesians 6:10 ff., Paul says that we extinguish the missiles of Satan with the shield of faith and that our sword is the Word of God.
 5. James 4:7, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
 6. 1 Peter 5:8-9, "Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in *your* faith . . ."
 7. 1 John 2:14 tells us that the spiritual young man is one in whom the Word abides and as a result he has overcome the evil one.

V. Conclusion.

- A. It is my conviction that the church has fallen for one of Satan's greatest schemes—deception.
- B. We are yanking on a dandelion but never going for the root.
- C. Too many Christians are fighting themselves to exhaustion with demons that are not even there.
- D. Meanwhile Satan is sending in by drove false angels of light, wolves in sheep clothing, to devour and destroy the people of God.
- E. Satan is much like an old statement an apache fight once said. "There is only one thing more frightening than seeing an apache, and that's not seeing one."
- F. There are only two ways you can live victorious over Satan.

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1. Submit to God.
2. Know and obey His Word.

Small Group Questions

- What did you learn regarding Satan that was new for you?
- How does what we saw in the Bible compare to what we often see both in the popular culture and among Christians and churches?
- What are three things you took away from the sermon that you either need to apply in your life or remind yourself of? Why?