

I Peter
Lesson #13-Our Enemy
I Peter 5:8-9

I. Introduction:

Peter has had a couple of major encounters with Jesus regarding Satan:

Consider Matthew 16:22-24: “Get behind me, Satan...”

Consider Luke 22:31-34: Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you...”

Notice some terms in vs. 8-9:

“Be sober minded (not intoxicated) ...be alert (awake and watching) ... the enemy is your adversary (an opponent like a prosecuting attorney) ...prowls around (walks about in a complete circuit) ...looking for someone to devour (to drink down, to swallow) ...resist him (take a complete stand against him).”

II. The Scriptures Have Much to Say About Satan

Satan’s existence is taught in seven books of the Old Testament, by every writer in the New Testament and by Christ Himself (In 25 out of the 29 passages in which Satan is mentioned in the Gospels, Christ is the speaker).

III. His Origin

- A. He was created – Ezek. 28:13-16
- B. His fall –Isa. 14:12-14

IV. His Personality

There is a quantity of clear evidence for treating Satan as a real personality and not just as a personification of abstract evil.

- A. He has intelligence and emotion (cunning and scheming)
 - 1. Consider: 2 Cor. 2:11, 11:3, Eph. 6:11
 - 2. He has volition or will – Isa. 14:12-14, 2 Tim. 2:26
 - 3. He has emotion – Rev. 12:12
- B. He is addressed as a personality (Zech. 3:1-2, Matt. 4:1-11, 12:26, Luke 4:1-13)
- C. He has names and titles:
Satan (Job 1:6), The Devil (1 Pet. 5:8), Lucifer (“Star of the Morning”-Isa. 14:12),
Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24), The Evil One (John 17:15), The Tempter (Matt. 4:3), Prince of

Demons (Matt. 12:24), Prince of this World (John 12:31) and the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4)

D. His symbolic representations:

1. A great red dragon – Rev. 12:3
2. The old serpent – Rev. 12:9, 14, 15
3. Angel of Light – 2 Cor. 11:14
4. Roaring lion – 1 Pet. 5:8

V. His Nature

A. His evil character – John 8:44, 1 John 3:8, 1 Pet. 5:8, Rev. 12:10

B. His definite limitations:

1. Very intelligent but not omniscient – 2 Cor. 2:11, Eph. 6:11
2. Very powerful but not omnipotent – Matt 12:29, Eph. 6:10-18, Jude 9
3. Represented in many localities through demons but he is not omnipresent – Rev. 12:7-9
4. Can be resisted by the Christian who is submitted to God – James 4:7, 1 Pet. 5:9
5. Subject to the boundaries of God's sovereign will – Job. 1:12, 2:6

VI. His work

A. In relation to God:

1. Twists God's word – Gen. 3:4-5
2. Opposes God's work – Matt. 4:1-11, 1 Thess. 2:18
3. Masquerades as an angel of light – 2 Cor. 11:14-15, Rev. 16:13
4. Seeks to usurp God's position and power by working through the man of sin – 2 Thess. 2:4, 9
5. Seeks to be worshipped – Matt 4:9, 2 Thess. 2:3-4

B. In relation to Christ:

He will be in constant conflict with Christ – Gen. 3:15

C. In relation to believers:

1. Tempts them to doubt, disbelieve, disobey God – Gen. 3:1-5
2. Sows tares among believers – Matt. 13:38-39
3. Uses demons to war against them – Eph. 6:11-12
4. Hinders their work – 1 Thess. 2:18
5. Accuses and slanders them – Rev. 12:10

D. In relation to unbelievers:

1. He snatches God's Word from their hearts – Matt. 13:19, Luke 8:12

2. Blinds their minds to the Gospel - 2 Cor. 4:4
 3. Result: prevents unbelievers from spiritually understanding the Gospel and believing it.
- E. His ability to work:
1. Exercises great supernatural powers to “wow and woo people.” 2 Thess. 2:9, Rev. 13:15 – 17, Luke 22:3, John 13:27 – takes possession of men
Example: Ex. 7:10-8:7 – apparently Egyptian magicians did their “magic” by satanic power.
 2. Influences people (including Christians) – Acts 5:3
 3. Causes physical affliction – Acts 10:38, 1 Cor. 5:5, 2 Cor. 12:7
 4. Inflicts death upon people only within God’s permissive will – Heb. 2:14 (Job 2:6)

VII. So what? What is our defense against Satan (and his crowd)?

- A. Be watchful and sober minded I Peter 5:8
- B. Never speak of him contemptuously, sarcastically – Jude 9
 1. Satan should be regarded by the Christian seriously and not jokingly
 2. Satan is not to be viewed as a being with horns, or a forked tail, hooves and wearing long red thermal underwear and equipped with a pitch fork.
- C. Regard him as only a limited being with no power except as permitted by God – Job 1:21, 2:10, 1 Cor. 10:13
- D. Remember Christ’s intercessory ministry (we are delivered from the “evil one” – Matt. 6:13) stands between us and Satan’s power – John 17:15.
- E. Don’t be scatterbrained, but (Gal. 5:23 “self control”) – keep your thoughts collected and under the control of the Spirit.
- F. Do not give any place to Satan – Eph. 4:27. Maintain a spirit filled life – Eph. 5:18
- G. Daily submit to God – James 4:7

