

Satan and Demons

Rev. 12

INTRODUCTION: As amateur philosophers are trying to make sense of the world around us. Our religion, or lack thereof, provides a lens (a worldview) that gives us answers to all we encounter.

C.S. Lewis said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because - by it, I see everything else."

Christianity was the lens through which Lewis made sense of the world. Now we all do that to some degree. But sometimes fail to appropriate the whole counsel of God when developing their worldview.

For example:

- **God created the Heavens and the Earth** - So one would expect to see evidence of intelligent design as they study creation. There should be some measure of predictability in creation. Math should be possible, Science should be possible.
- **God created man in His image** - So religion should be possible. There should be some means objective means of acquiring the knowledge of God.
- **Man fell** - This introduces an entirely new category. Chaos has re-entered creation. The sin of Adam brought a curse on mankind and on the planet. Therefore death is destiny, wars happen, cancer happens, divorce happens... all a result of sin.

But there is another category that we fail to calculate for.

- **Satan and Demons exist** - Scripture teaches that the Arch Angel Lucifer attempted a coup. One third of the angels joined him becoming demons.

In the midst of your world, you account for science, you account for religion, you account even for some difficulty because of the fall... but do you account for the reality of the demonic realm that levees unimagined influence over the world as you know it?

As American Christians we have a tendency to accept two aspects of basic understanding when it comes to the world as we know it.

- We can accept some form of what is called - **High Theology** - The study of things that pertain to God, Heaven, Eternal Life, Truth, etc. Now Americans may not agree on the conclusions about things pertaining to God but the vast majority of Americans associate themselves with some form of religion.
- Then we can easily accept - **Natural Science** The study of things that can be systematically arranged and observed following the operation of general laws.

But for most of the world there is a very well defined third category called **Middle Theology**. That is the work of Angels and Demons. We fail to account for that part of the equation.

There are at least 17 names given to the Devil in scripture -

Satan, Devil, Evil One, Great red dragon, Serpent of old, Abaddon, Apollyon, Adversary, Beelzebul, Belial, God of this world, Ruler of this world, Prince of the power of the air, Enemy, Tempter, Murderer, Liar, Accuser

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

There are basically two extremes that people fall into when it comes to the study of Satan and Demons –

1. The other extreme is to overestimate Satan and Demons

ILLUSTRATION: Someone put it this way – Just as A quarter lifted over the eye can obscure the blazing light of the sun. A star whose diameter is more than a million times larger than the sun. This person tends toward superstition and silliness.

2. They under estimate Satan and Demons –

Any time we see a National Tragedy what do people ask, “How were they raised, what was their culture like?” We don’t tend to account for supernatural evil.

It is foolish to act as if Satan was the most important part of the equation, but it is also foolish to act as if Satan is NOT part of the equation at all.

CONTEXT: Revelation 12 gives us a sweeping account of world history. We see history as a cosmic battle between **Satan** and a **Savior**.

TEXT: Revelation 12:1–17 (ESV)

¹ And a great sign appeared in heaven:

So this is an aside, it’s a vision within a vision. Before the sounding of the 7th trumpet John sees this sweeping account of history and it begins with a woman.

... a woman clothed with the **sun**, with the **moon** under her feet, and on her head a crown of **twelve stars**.

Imagine that, clothed with the sun, moon under her feet and a crown with 12 stars on her head. The word CROWN there is not the word **STEPHANOS** which means a victors crow, Stephen means victorious...but rather **DIADIM**, which speaks of a Kings Crown.

Who else in the Bible had a dream about the Sun, the Moon and stars? Joseph!

Genesis 37:9–11 (ESV)

⁹ Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" ¹¹ And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

In John's vision there were 12 stars. Because the sons of Israel comprise the 12 stars. This is speaking of Israel. In the same way, I believe the Woman in John's vision is Israel.

² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

For most of her entire existence Israel existed great AGONY. Then in the fullness of time, she gave birth to the Messiah - the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon,

Who is the dragon? John tells us in Revelation 20:2 (ESV)

² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

- **EDEN** - Satan came as a serpent to Adam and Eve, which this verse seems to indicate was more than a typical yard snake. The idea is that of a scaled serpentine creature.

Throughout the scriptures you see echoes of the *serpent* language.

- **WILDERNESS** - Serpents afflicted Israel in the wilderness
- **DAVID** - When Goliath threatened Israel he was wearing Serpentine Armor. (scales)
- **JESUS** - At the temptation of Jesus, Satan tells Jesus to throw himself off of a high Mountain for it is written in **Psalm 91:11-12**, "for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Then he cuts off before the prophetic verse 13 of Psalms 91, "Thou shalt tread upon the lion and serpent: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet." (Psalm 91:13 KJV)

So the Dragon, this Serpentine Creator is None other than Satan.

The text speaks of Satan's Earthly Influence -

...with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

This is from Daniel - Daniel taught us that **seven heads** with their **seven diadems** represent **seven consecutive world empires** running their course under Satan's dominion: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the final Antichrist's future empire.

The final kingdom, ruled by Antichrist, will be a ten-nation confederacy; the **ten horns** represent the kings who will rule under Antichrist.

Make no mistake - Satan is heavily involved in the political system, and he doesn't want you on his turf. There is great spiritual warfare that occurs when a Christian gets involved in the political process. That is why one of the greatest ways a Christian can oppose Satan is by taking your biblical understanding and running for public office.

Satan's Heavenly Influence -

⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.

Never forget, Satan was born in Heaven. He was created by God as a great Arc-Angel. His name was **Lucifer** (son of the morning), he served God along side Michael and Gabriel. His responsibility was to receive the Heavenly praise and pass it on to God. Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer each oversaw one third of Heaven.

Eze. 28:16-17 describes the sin of Satan and his being cast down. Think of this as a grand demotion. His relationship with the Creator changed.

Jesus said later, "I saw Satan fall like Lightning".

So when Satan sinned - he was cast down to earth. But he still retained the **right of approach**.

Turn to the earliest book in your bible - Job 1:6-12 (NASB95)

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God (**ANGELS**) came to present themselves before the LORD, and **Satan** also came among them.

Jesus to Peter - Luke 22:31 (NASB95)

³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat;

Remember we are told that Satan accuses us day and night before God.

So Satan could approach God, Satan could ask God questions, he was in a sense a prosecuting attorney. Who is the defendant? YOU and ME! But don't get too worried, we have a pretty good defense attorney, the Lord Jesus Christ.

ILLUSTRATION: I'll never forget over hearing a man having coffee with a lawyer. The lawyer was trying to get the man to hire him for representation. The man mentioned several other Attorneys in town to which the lawyer said, "Those are good attorneys, but I am a great attorney." The client said, "What's the difference", to which the attorney replied, "A good attorney knows the law, a great attorney knows the Judge". Dear friend, "Our defense attorney knows the Judge. As a matter of Fact his is the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth!

So Satan for thousands of years has maintained this lawyerly right of approach. Remember that.

4b. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was **caught up to God and to his throne**,

So that was Satan's first attempt - to destroy the Messiah. You remember that at the birth of Jesus... Herod wanted to have him killed, the slaughter of the innocents occurred, but Joseph warned in a dream takes Jesus to Egypt.

- Then right after the Baptism of Jesus, which was a type of coronation... satan tried to tempt Jesus to sin in order to disqualify him.
- He must have thought on the cross he had finally defeated Jesus. But death could not hold him.
- Now the phrase, "Caught up to the throne" may have reference to the ascension of Jesus Christ, or some theologians suggest, it may have reference to the RAPTURE the sudden Harpazo of the of the body of the Christ, the church. The accention seems to describe a slow rising of Jesus into the Heavens as they gazed at him. This is the same word for that sudden, dramatic snatching away we referred to previously.

⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

This is happening during the tribulation period...

Jesus speaks of this in Matthew 24:15–21 (ESV)

¹⁵ "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

So Israel will be forced to flee from AntiChrist, leave the city, go into the wilderness.

7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, **and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.**

Some believe that this great battle in Heaven occurs **POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE RAPTURE** - One can only speculate as to why God is casting him ultimately out of Heaven at this point, but the timing seems to suggest that it has something to do with the bodily arrival of the Church following the rapture. Perhaps Satan and his demons seek to hinder the Church's arrival. Perhaps war breaks out over their presence. We don't know. But remember they raptured believer's must pass through Satan's realm before entering Heaven - he is the Prince of the Power of the Air.

⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

So this is the great EXCOMMUNICATION from any access into Heaven. **So here Satan loses his right of APPROACH. No longer can he stand before God and accuse us.**

NOW Anything that Satan hopes to accomplish **he MUST accomplish in the time he has remaining.**

If you have ever seen a really good fight go the distance... in that final round they will give everything they possibly have. That is where Satan is at this point in the last half of the tribulation. He is a wild animal cornered.

Verse 10 begins a great celebration in Heaven -

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

Immediately Satan turns his attention to redeemed Israel, specifically those dwelling in Jerusalem.

¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

Here we see Israel is evacuated with the help of an outside aid - from Jerusalem into the wilderness. This could be help provided by her only consistent Ally and this may be the only place in the New Testament where the **United States** is mentioned.

Today, much of the Iron Dome that protects Israel is developed by US Scientists. In the valley of Megedo there is a great underground airfare base. A few years ago, it was flooded and they lost all of those jets. Who do you think replaced those jets for the protection of Israel. The good old USA.

It could be here that our nation helps in evacuating the Jews from Jerusalem into a place prepared for her.

¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.

The wilderness of Judea where Israel will flee is some of the lowest elevation on the planet. It is not hard to imagine one trying to flood that region. But it will be to no avail.

¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

So Satan at this point turns from the Jews in Jerusalem to those scattered around the planet.

So there is your enemy. He hates you, He hates your family, He hates your marriage, He hates your children.

You do realize don't you that God could quickly and easily irradiate Satan and every demon with a single word. Why doesn't he?

Listen to Romans 16:20 (NASB95)

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

God has chosen to defeat Satan through you and me.

CONCLUSION/INVITATION:

ILLUSTRATION: We've all seen the slap heard round the world at the Oscars. What we didn't see was Denzel Washington approaching Will Smith during a commercial break. Denzel knew that this wasn't ordinary behavior by Will Smith... something is going on. Denzel whispered in the ear of the soon to be Oscar winner, "Son, Satan comes after us on the Mountain". Denzel couldn't see everything, but he knew the influence of the enemy when he saw it. My question is, "do you"? Do you see the third party?