

Demonology: *Understanding and Combatting Your Defeated Foe*
Session 2

Introduction

Last week, in our course introduction, we discussed why we are studying demonology, and we dealt broadly with the subject of angels: good and bad.

This week, we are going to get much more particular. This morning, we'll discuss Satan and his present position. We'll discuss who he is, whether God has made him King of this world or bound him in chains, and we'll close by discussing how we ought to respond to him and think about him.

We've got lots of work to do today, so let's get right at it, asking our first question, *number 1*

1. Who is Satan?

Briefly, we'll answer this question with five statements. First, *letter a*, know that,

a) Satan is a creature; not a rival deity.

In Colossians 1, Paul makes it clear that all things, even heavenly, spiritual beings like Satan, were created by God through his eternal Son, ultimately for his own glory. Paul says,

✦ *Colossians 1:15-16 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

Further, more explicitly, in Job, when the other sons of God (an expression that often refers to angels) presented themselves to God, Satan came as one of them.

✦ *Job 1:6 - Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*

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Next, **letter b**, know that,

b) *Satan is a fallen angel whose ultimate sin was pride.*

In Jude, we learn that the chief sin of all the fallen angels was pride. It says,

✦ *Jude 1:6 - And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—*

You see, rather than remain content with the lofty position given to them, in pride, they sought for more.

We see this same truth in,

✦ *1 Timothy 3:6 - He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

Here, Paul is saying that an elder candidate shouldn't be a new believer, lest he end up falling into condemnation the same way the devil fell: through pride and conceit.

Next, **letter c**, know that,

c) *Satan is the chief of the fallen angels.*

Last week, we learned that angels don't have a federal head in whom they are counted as either righteous or wicked. This morning, I want to make it clear that this doesn't mean that there is no chief among angels and demons. A couple of passages make it clear that, though Satan is not the federal head of the demons, he is their chief.

✦ *Matthew 12:22-26 - Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that*

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this man casts out demons.” Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

Satan is here named Beelzebub (a name that our text tells us means prince of demons). Consider also,

✠ *Revelation 12:1-4 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.*

Satan is here named the dragon who swept down a third of the stars from heaven. While we shouldn't try to take this text too literally, thinking that angels are literal stars or that literally 1/3 of the angelic host followed Satan in his rebellion, we should at least see that Satan is the chief demon who led the host of fallen angels/demons in their rebellion.

Next, **letter d**, know that,

d) Satan brought sin to our race.

When humanity fell, we fell while being tempted by Satan.

✠ **Genesis 3:1-6**

You see, the thought of doubting God's words and disobeying him did not originate from within Adam and Eve; it was introduced to them by that ancient serpent, the devil.

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The same is not true for the devil, however. You see, no passage of Scripture speaks of some being outside of Satan introducing the idea of sin and disobedience. Further, we know God did not tempt Satan since God tempts no one (James 1:13). Further still, in John's gospel, we read,

✠ *John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Hearing this, we are on solid ground in saying that no one introduced sin to Satan; it came from himself. Yet, not so with us. Satan, through temptation and lies, brought sin to our race. We are indeed responsible for succumbing to temptation and believing the lies, but the lies and temptation did not originate with us.

Lastly, **letter e**, know that,

e) Satan is known by many names

We've hinted at this already. But know that Satan has many names in the Bible, and none of them are a true, proper, personal name; they're all titles. He is called:

- **Satan** (the adversary) — Job 1:6; Zechariah 3:1–2; Matthew 4:10; 1 Peter 5:8 ("your adversary"); Revelation 12:9
- **Devil** (the slanderer, accuser) — Matthew 4:1; John 8:44; Ephesians 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9
- **Apollyon / Abaddon** (the destroyer) — Revelation 9:11
- **Belial** (the worthless one) — 2 Corinthians 6:15
- **Beelzebul** (the prince of demons) — Matthew 10:25; 12:24, 27; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15, 18–19. Background: 2 Kings 1:2–3, 6, 16 (Baal-zebub of Ekron)

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- **The Dragon** — Revelation 12:3–4, 7, 9, 13, 16–17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2.
Associated imagery: Ezekiel 29:3; Jeremiah 51:34; Isaiah 27:1
- **The Serpent / Ancient Serpent** — Genesis 3:1, 14; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Revelation 12:9; 20:2
- **The Tempter** — Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5
- **The Evil One** — Matthew 6:13; 13:19, 38; John 17:15; Ephesians 6:16; 1 John 5:18–19
- **The Accuser of the brethren** — Revelation 12:10 (cf. Job 1:9–11; Zechariah 3:1)
- **The Prince of this world** — John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
- **The god of this world** — 2 Corinthians 4:4
- **The Prince of the power of the air** — Ephesians 2:2
- **The Enemy** — Matthew 13:39; Luke 10:19
- **The father of lies** — John 8:44

Discussion Questions:

Doctrinal:

- Why does it matter that no one tempted Satan — that his sin originated with himself? What would we have to say about God if it were otherwise?
- We said angels have no federal head, yet Satan is chief of the demons. What's the difference between being a head and being a chief, and why does the distinction matter?

Practical

- Adam and Eve were tempted from outside, but we said they were still responsible. How do we hold both of those together when counseling someone who says "the devil made me do it"?
- If the sin of pride swept Satan and a third of the angels from heaven, how ought we view that particular sin?

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Experiential

- Of these five things — creature, fallen through pride, chief of demons, bringer of sin to our race, known by many names — which is most different from what you believed about Satan before this morning?
- Have you ever caught yourself thinking about Satan as though he were God's equal — as though the outcome were genuinely uncertain? Why?

2. What is Satan's Present Position?

Before we get into this point, please know we will not finish it this morning. We are going to ask: Currently, is Satan a King, or is he a Captive? Perhaps both? Perhaps neither? So, let's start by asking,

a) Is Satan a King?

Why are we asking this question? Because many, if not most, modern evangelical believers assume that Satan is the King of this world. They believe that when Adam fell, he forfeited his dominion over this world, giving Satan a rightful claim to it. So, is this true?

Before we answer this question, let's look at texts that often lead people to believe that Satan is the King of the world. In John's gospel, Jesus repeatedly calls Satan "the ruler of this world. See, for example,

✦ *John 12:31 - Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.*

✦ *John 16:11 - concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Paul speaks of Satan, saying,

✦ *2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case, the god of this world has blinded the minds of the*

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unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Similarly, in Ephesians 2, he says,

- ✦ *Ephesians 2:1-2 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—*

Further, a few texts really make it sound as if Satan has a kingdom or domain that is truly, rightly his. Consider Jesus' words,

- ✦ *Matthew 12:26 - And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?*

And consider what Jesus told Paul in,

- ✦ *Acts 26:16-18- But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'*

Consider Paul's words in,

- ✦ *Colossians 1:13 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,*

Further still, many look to Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. There, Satan said to Jesus,

- ✦ *Luke 4:5-7 - And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."*

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In light of all these texts, we now ask: Is Satan a King? We have already said that he is the chief of the demons, but is he also the King of this World? When he told Jesus that all the kingdoms of the world had been delivered to him, and he was free to give it to whom he would, was Satan, the Father of lies (John 8:44), speaking truth in that moment?

The Bible certainly teaches that Satan is

“the prince of the demons and the head of a godless world-order.”¹

But it remains to be asked: **is Satan a monarch in some divinely granted domain?**

Frederick Leahy offers the most compelling and biblical answer to this question, asserting:

Though Adam was a steward and trustee of God's creation, Satan had no authority to rule men, for man was never his own master. And therefore there could be no scepter of rule belonging to man which was transferable to Satan after the Fall. God has given Satan no dominion over man. Man is within the dominion of Satan only because of his sin. In revolt against God, he aligned himself with Satan. In this sense only, Satan is his “god” and “prince.”²

¹ Frederick Leahy, *Satan Cast Out*, p.24.

² *Ibid*, p.24

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Do you see what Leahy is arguing, dear ones? God has NOT, in any way, made Satan a King over mankind. God has NOT given Satan a kingdom. When he offered the kingdoms of the world to Jesus, he once again lied. God had not granted Satan this authority and rule. When the Bible speaks of his rule, it speaks only of how we, in our sin, have submitted ourselves to his rule. It does NOT speak of God granting him rule over us.

So, at this point, you might be thinking,

That's a pretty subtle distinction. Does it even matter? Why do I need to know that God didn't make Satan king of humanity after the fall?

Loads of answers to that question, but here is one super important answer. If God made Satan our king at the fall, or if Satan rightly won that title by leading us to ruin, then in saving us, if God is to be just and lawful (which he is), he must purchase us from Satan. According to this view, when God saved us, instead of saving us from his own just and furious eternal wrath, he bought us from the devil. You see, dear ones, believing that Satan is the legitimate king of the world has massive consequences for the doctrine of salvation, doesn't it?

Now, rest assured, no verse in Scripture talks about God making a deal with the devil for us, but the entire Bible tells the story of how God sent Jesus to save us from his own wrath.

Scripture is clear that:

- The wrath we were saved from is God's, not the devil's (Romans 1:18, Romans 5:9, John 3:36)

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- When Jesus paid it all, the payment was made to God, not the devil (Ephesians 5:2, Hebrews 9:14)
- And Satan was neither robbed nor paid; he was defeated (Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14, 1 John 3:8, Revelation 12:10-11).

In fact, we can close by reading Colossians 2:15:

- ✦ *Colossians 2:15 - He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

Discussion Questions:

Doctrinal

- Satan told Jesus the kingdoms of the world had been delivered to him. Jesus never disputed that claim — He answered with Scripture instead. Does his silence mean agreement? How would you explain that to someone who cited Luke 4:6 to prove that God gave Satan authority over us?
- If Scripture says we were "delivered from the domain of darkness," and yet God never granted Satan that domain, what exactly were we delivered from?
- Some in the early church taught that Christ's death was a ransom paid to the devil. What's wrong with that, and which verses most directly refute it?
- We said Satan rules us only because we aligned ourselves with him in sin. If that's true, who is actually responsible for a sinner's bondage — Satan, or the sinner?

Practical

- How would you answer a Christian friend who said, "Well, this world belongs to the devil, so of course everything is falling apart"?
- If Satan is not king of this world, how should that change the way you look at the news, or at our city, or at the culture around us?
- When we evangelize, are we asking Satan to release someone, or asking God to raise someone? Does the difference show up in how you actually pray for the lost?



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Experiential

- Be honest — before this morning, did you assume Satan holds a rightful claim to this world? Where do you think you picked that up?