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2 Satan and Demons

3 Satan and Demons

- Dr. Alan Stringfellow, Through the Bible in One Year
 - When we study the a subject such as Satan and his angels, also called demons, we must realize that Satan’s best and most unique work is to convince people that the does not exist.

4 Satan and Demons

- Dr. Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology
 - We may define demons as follows:
 - Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world.

5 

6 The Origin of Demons

- When God created the world, he “saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1:31).
- This means that even the angelic world that God had created did not have evil angels or demons in it at that time. But by the time of Genesis 3, we find that Satan, in the form of a serpent, was tempting Eve to sin (Gen. 3:1–5).

7 The Origin of Demons

- Therefore, sometime between the events of Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1, there must have been a rebellion in the angelic world with many angels turning against God and becoming evil.

8 Satan and Demons

- The battle between Christ and Satan started back in Genesis 3:15 and continues to this day.
- To know the truth sets us free, so we must know the truth about Christ and the truth about Satan.
- The Christian’s warfare is threefold: the world, the flesh and the Devil

9 The Origin of Satan

- Satan was a created being
 - He was created as the greatest of all the angelic hosts (Ezekiel 28:15)
 - He was given the title, “Lucifer, son of the morning” which is symbolic of his estate in heaven (Isaiah 14:12).

10 Ezekiel & Isaiah

- In Isaiah, God addressed Satan by his heavenly title - “Lucifer”
- In Ezekiel, God addressed him by his earthly title - “King of Tyrus,” symbolizing the lowest depth of moral depravity.
- These titles express the highest of all creative power and the lowest depth of pomp and pride (Tyre)

11 

12 Ezekiel & Isaiah

- In Ezekiel 28:12-15, God goes beyond the King of Tyre to speak to Satan. God indirectly addressed Satan in Genesis 3:14-15 and in Matthew 16:23.
- Also, in Isaiah 14:12.
- It is very unlikely a person could be referred to in either Isaiah or Ezekiel.

13 Ezekiel & Isaiah

- So, Satan was “Lucifer, son of the morning.”
- Lucifer means “day star, light bearer” (Isaiah 14:12).
- He was “full of wisdom and perfect in beauty” and he had “been in Eden the garden of God” and was told “thou art the anointed cherub that covereth” (Ezekiel 28:12-15)

14 Satan’s Unfallen State

- The state of Lucifer, before his fall, is described in Ezekiel 28:12-15
- He was the cherub that coveteth, meaning he was overlooking the throne of God.
- God created all angels, including Lucifer. He made Lucifer superior in every way - in wisdom, beauty, in authority, anointed, perfect.
- Therefore God did create the angel, Lucifer, but through the sin of Pride, Lucifer became Satan.

15 Satan’s Sin and Fall

- Lucifer became Satan by introducing the original sin into the universe: PRIDE
- In Isaiah 14:13-14, the sin is given in detail - notice the number of “I will’s”
 - I will ascend into heaven.

16 Satan’s Sin and Fall

- I will exalt my throne above the stars of God
- I will sit upon the mount of the congregation
- I will ascend above the heights of God -
- I will be like the most High
- Lucifer became Satan by choosing his own will above the will of God.

17 Satan’s Sin and Fall

- God determined the sentence
 - The sentence was, “thou has sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: I will destroy thee, O covering cherub - Ezekiel 28:16
 - How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground” Isaiah 14:12

18 Satan’s Sin and Fall

- We commit the same sin and become a part of the fall when we say, “I will,” and not “God’s will.”
- Jesus said, “I beheld Satan fell from heaven” (Luke 10:18).

19

20 Names and Titles of Satan

- Satan, meaning Adversary - 1 Chron. 21:1 & 1 Peter 5:8
- Devil, the Slanderer - Rev 12:9

- Beelzebub, the Prince of Demons - Matt 12:4
- Belial, the Low One - 2 Cor 6:15

21 **Names and Titles of Satan**

- The Old Serpent - Gen 3:15, Rev 12:9
- God of the World - 2 Cor 4:4
- Prince of the World - John 12:31
- Prince of the Power of the Air - Eph 2:2
- Dragon - Rev 20:2
- Angel of Light - 2 Cor 11:14
- Accuser of the Brethren - Rev 12:10
- Father of Lies - John 8:44

22 **Sphere of Satan's Activity**

- He has access to the throne of God
 - Job 1:6, 2:1
 - Rev 12:10 - a loud voice said, "for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accused them day and night."

23 **Sphere of Satan's Activity**

- He has access to earth
 - Job 1:7 - "from going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down on it."
 - He appeared in the Garden of Eden in the form of a serpent to try to strike back at God's eternal purpose in man.
 - Satan deceived Eve, Adam followed and sin entered into the heart of man - Gen 3:1-19

24 **Sphere of Satan's Activity**

- 1 Chronicles 21:1 - And Satan stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel.
- Ephesians 2:2 & 6:12 - Satan has access as the Prince of the Power of the Air; he rules the darkness of this world and wickedness in high places.

25 **What Satan Does**

- Satan tempts people to sin
 - From Gen 3:15 to Matt 4, Satan's goal was to thwart the plan of God.
 - In Matt 4, Satan comes face to face with Jesus and tries to destroy him.
 - Were they strangers? No, Jesus Created Him (Lucifer).
 - Other events - Satan entered Judas/Annias and Saphira

26 **What Satan Does**

- Satan deceives the world
 - 2 Cor 4:4 - he blinds
 - Matt 13:19 - he removes the Word from hearts.
 - 2 Tim 2:26 - ensnares
 - Eph 6:11 - schemes

- 1 Peter 5:8 - devours

27 What Satan Does

- He hinders the work of God
 - He opposed Paul's ministry - 1 Thess 2:18
 - Uses Godly actions to his advantage if allowed - 2 Cor 2:11

28 What Satan Does

- He sifts the servants of God - Luke 22:31
- Sows tares among the people of God - Matt 13:38,39
- Constantly causes problems for God's servants - 2 Cor 12:7

29 Satan's Limitations

- Satan is not omnipotent (all powerful)
 - Satan is limited in power by God, cannot force people to sin.
 - He tempts, coerces, entices, but cannot force transgression

30 Satan's Limitations

- Satan is not omniscient (all knowing)
 - Satan is crafty, not wise like God, he is not all knowing.
- Satan is not omnipresent (everywhere present)
 - he cannot be at more than one place at a time.
 - He has demons dispatched at his pleasure and he has a kingdom of his own.

31 The Origin of Demons

- God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether gloom to be kept until the judgment" (2 Peter 2:4).
- Jude also says that "the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

32 The Origin of Demons

- 2 Peter and Jude tell us that some angels rebelled against God and became hostile opponents to his Word.
- Their sin seems to have been pride, a refusal to accept their assigned place, for they "did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling" (Jude 6).

33 The Origin of Demons

- Isaiah 14:12-15, strongly suggests a rebellion by an angelic creature of great power and dignity.
- If this is so, then the sin of Satan is described as one of pride and attempting to be equal to God in status and authority

34 Satan as Head of Demons

- The name "Satan" is a Hebrew word (שָׂטָן) that means "adversary."
- This name is mentioned in Job 1:6, where "the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them" (see also Job 1:7-2:7).

- Similarly, near the end of David's life, "Satan stood up against Israel, and incited David to number Israel" (1 Chron. 21:1).

35 **Satan as Head of Demons**

- Moreover, Zechariah saw a vision of "Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him" (Zech. 3:1).

36 **The Activity of Satan and Demons**

- Satan was the originator sin
- Demons oppose and try to destroy every work of God
- Demons are limited by God's control and have limited power

37 **Originator of Sin**

- Satan sinned before any human beings did so, as is evident from the fact that he (in the form of the serpent) tempted Eve (Gen. 3:1–6; 2 Cor. 11:3).
- murderer from the beginning" and is "a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).
- It also says that "the devil has sinned from the beginning" (1 John 3:8)

38 **Opposition and Destruction of God's Works**

- Just as Satan tempted Eve to sin against God (Gen. 3:1–6), so he tried to get Jesus to sin and thus fail in his mission as Messiah (Matt. 4:1–11).
- The tactics of Satan and his demons are to use lies (John 8:44), deception (Rev. 12:9), murder (Ps. 106:37; John 8:44), and every other kind of destructive activity to attempt to cause people to turn away from God and destroy themselves.

39 **Opposition and Destruction of God's Works**

- Demons will try every tactic to blind people to the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4) and keep them in bondage to things that hinder them from coming to God (Gal. 4:8).
- They will also try to use temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander, or any other means possible to hinder a Christian's witness and usefulness.

40 **Demonic Limitations Under God's Control**

- The story of Job makes it clear that Satan could only do what God gave him permission to do and nothing more (Job 1:12; 2:6).
- Demons are kept in "eternal chains" (Jude 6) and can be successfully resisted by Christians through the authority that Christ gives them (James 4:7).

41 **Demonic Limitations Under God's Control**

- Demons are demons because they rebelled against God, for that reason they are not stronger than angels, as they have been corrupted by sin.

42 **Demonic Limitations Under God's Control**

- In the area of knowledge, we should not think that demons can know the future or that they can read our minds or know our thoughts.
- In many places in the Old Testament, the Lord shows himself to be the true God in distinction from the false (demonic) gods of the nations by the fact that he alone can know the future: “I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done” (Isa. 46:9–10).

43 **Demonic Limitations**

Under God’s Control

- With respect to knowing our thoughts, the Bible tells us that Jesus knew people’s thoughts (Matt. 9:4; 12:25; Mark 2:8; Luke 6:8; 11:17) and that God knows people’s thoughts (Gen. 6:5; Ps. 139:2, 4, 23; Isa. 66:18), but there is no indication that angels or demons can know our thoughts.

44 **Demonic Limitations**

Under God’s Control

- In fact, Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that no one speaking by any other power than the God of heaven could tell the king what he had dreamed:
 - Daniel answered the king, “No wise men, enchanter, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery which the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these ...” (Dan. 2:27–28)

45 **Demonic Limitations**

Under God’s Control

- If demons cannot read people’s minds what about those that claim to know things and read minds...the occult?
 - Most of these things can be explained by realizing that demons can observe what goes on in the world and can probably draw some conclusions from those observations.

46 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- Old Testament
 - In the OT the word “demon” was not used often, instead it is described as “serving false gods,” otherwise known as demonic forces
 - Deut. 32:16-17 - “They stirred him [God] to jealousy with strange gods; with abominable practices they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to demons which were no gods to gods they had never known.

47 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- The Israelites imitated child sacrifice, as the pagan nations did:
 - Ps 106:35-37 - “They mingled with the nations and learned to do as they did. They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons.”

48 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- In light of this, it is significant that there is no clear instance of the casting out of demons in the Old Testament.
- The nearest analogy is the case of David playing the lyre for King Saul: “And whenever the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand; so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him” (1 Sam. 16:23).

49 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- Consistent with the purpose of Satan to destroy all the good works of God, pagan worship of demonic idols was characterized by destructive practices such as the sacrifice of children (Ps. 106:35–37), inflicting bodily harm on oneself (1 Kings 18:28; cf. Deut. 14:1), and cult prostitution as a part of pagan worship (Deut. 23:17; 1 Kings 14:24; Hos. 4:14).
- Worship of demons will regularly lead to immoral and self-destructive practices.

50 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- Ministry of Jesus
 - Christ’s ability to cast out demons had never been seen before in human history.
 - Jesus explains that his power over demons is a distinguishing mark on his ministry to inaugurate the reign of the kingdom of God among mankind in a new and powerful way:

51 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. (Matt. 12:28–29).
- The “strong man” is Satan, and Jesus had bound him, probably at the time of his triumph over him in the temptation in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1–11).

52 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- New Covenant Age - beyond Apostles
- Authority over unclean spirits later extended beyond the seventy disciples to those in the early church who ministered in Jesus’ name (Acts 8:7; 16:18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8–9), a fact consistent with the idea that ministry in Jesus’ name in the new covenant age is characterized by triumph over the powers of the devil (1 John 3:8).

53 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- During the Millennium
 - Rev 20:1-3 - Here Satan is described as completely deprived of any ability to influence the earth. During the millennium, however, there will still be sin in the hearts of the unbelievers, which will grow until the end of the thousand years when there will be a large-scale rebellion against Christ, led by Satan who, having been “loosed from his prison” (Rev. 20:7), will come to lead that rebellion (Rev. 20:8–9).

54 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Revelation**

- The fact that sin and rebelliousness persist in people's hearts apart from the activity of Satan, even during the thousand-year reign of Christ, shows that we cannot blame all sin in the world on Satan and his demons.
- Even when Satan is without influence in the world, sin will remain and be a problem in people's hearts.

55 **The Final Judgement**

- At the end of the millennium, when Satan is loosed and gathers the nations for battle, he will be decisively defeated and “thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur” and “tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Rev. 20:10).
- Then the judgment of Satan and his demons will be complete.

56 **Stages of Demonic Activity in Biblical Revelation**

- New Testament
- Ministry of Jesus
- New Covenant Age -
- Millennium
- At the Final Judgment

57 **Our Relationship to Demons**

- Are Demons active in the world today?
- Not all evil and sin is from Satan and Demons, but some is
- Can a Christian be demon possessed?
- How can demonic influences be recognized?
- Jesus gives believers authority over demons

58 **Are Demons Active Today?**

- There is no reason to think that there is any less demonic activity in the world today than there was at the time of the New Testament.
- We are in the same time period in God's overall plan for history (the church age or the new covenant age), and the millennium has not yet come when Satan's influence will be removed from the earth.

59 **Are Demons and Satan to Blame for All Evil?**

- Very little space is given to discussing demonic activity in the lives of believers or methods to resist and oppose such activity.
- In marked contrast to the practice of those who today emphasize “strategic level spiritual warfare,” in no instance does anyone in the New Testament
 - (1) summon a “territorial spirit” upon entering an area to preach the gospel (in both examples above the demon was in a person and the demon-influenced person initiated the confrontation), or

60 **Not All Evil and Sin is from Satan and Demons**

- (2) demand information from demons about a local demonic hierarchy
- (3) say that we should believe or teach information derived from demons or
- (4) teach by word or example that certain “demonic strongholds” over a city have to be broken before the gospel can be proclaimed with effectiveness.

61 **Not All Evil and Sin is from Satan and Demons**

- Therefore, though the New Testament clearly recognizes the influence of demonic activity in the world, and even, as we shall see, upon the lives of believers, its primary focus regarding evangelism and Christian growth is on the choices and actions taken by people themselves (see also Gal. 5:16–26; Eph. 4:1–6:9; Col. 3:1–4:6; et al.).
- We need to accept our own responsibility to obey the Lord and not to shift blame for our own misdeeds onto some demonic force.

62 **Not All Evil and Sin is from Satan and Demons**

- Warnings from the apostles about demons:
 - Paul also warned that in the latter days some would “depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Tim. 4:1)
 - In 2 Timothy, Paul implies that those who oppose sound doctrine have been captured by the devil to do his will: “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to every one, an apt teacher, forbearing, correcting his opponents with gentleness.

63 **Not All Evil and Sin is from Satan and Demons**

- God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will” (2 Tim. 2:24–26).
- Jesus - “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 has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

64 **Not All Evil and Sin is from Satan and Demons**

- John the Apostle
 - he who commits sin is of the devil” (1 John 3:8),
 - By this it may be seen who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not do right is not of God, nor he who does not love his brother” (1 John 3:10).
 - So Cain, when he murdered Abel, “was of the evil one and murdered his brother” (1 John 3:12),

65 **Not All Evil and Sin is from Satan and Demons**

- We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19)
- Then in Revelation Satan is called “the deceiver of the whole world” (Rev. 12:9)
- “the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2).

66 **Not All Evil and Sin is from Satan and Demons**

- In the lives of Christians, the emphasis of the New Testament is not on the influence of demons but on the sin that remains in the believer’s life.
- Nevertheless, we should recognize that sinning (even by Christians) does give a foothold for some kind of demonic influence in our lives.

67 **Can Christians be Demon Possessed?**

- If by “demon possessed” they mean that a person’s will is completely dominated by a demon, so that a person has no power left to choose to do right and obey God, then the answer to whether a Christian could be demon possessed would certainly be no, for Scripture guarantees that sin shall have no dominion over us since we have been raised with Christ (Rom. 6:14, see also vv. 4, 11).
- We can be attacked and influenced, but not possessed - our sin/flesh opens that avenue for evil.

68 **How can Demonic Influences be Recognized**

- Satanic or demonic activity always tends toward the ultimate destruction of parts of God’s creation and especially of human beings who are made in the image of God (cf. Ps. 106:37, on child sacrifice).
- Demonic influence can also be seen in false doctrine (1 Cor 12, 2 Cor 11:13-15)
- Positive recognition of God working (2 Cor 2:15-16)

69 **Next Week**

- Next Wednesday - Live Feed from Honduras with Brad and Chandler starting at 6:30pm
- Wednesday, March 18th, Revelation - Chapter 2, The Church of Pergamum and Thyatira