

No.3. Satan & Demonic Activity

In Luke 10: 18 Christ records & verifies the fall of Satan – “*I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*” Thus, his fall is an actual & historical event – it was the personal fall of one who would seem to have been one of the mightiest of the angelic hosts. However, Satan’s fall was not merely personal with himself; it was accompanied by the fall of a segment of the angelic host. Both in 2 Peter 2: 4 & Jude v.6 we read of the *angels that sinned* and the *angels that kept not their first estate*. Thus there is no doubt concerning this point of the fall of the angels. While Scripture does not reveal how sin entered into these holy beings, yet it did, and they rebelled and apostatized from their Creator.

Last week our study was designed to show that the fallen angels are synonymous with the demons and the unclean spirits mentioned in the N.T. Scriptures. It was proved from a number of verses that Satan, who himself is a fallen angel, is identified as an *unclean spirit*; and that he as *the devil* is “the prince of the demons”. Hence, in looking at this subject of *Satan and his Angels* we have identified some basic facts: Satan fell from his original estate; many of the angels fell with him; and these are the demons and the unclean spirits in view in the N.T. of whom Satan is head and prince.

We also noted that Satan and his angels are destined to eternal punishment in hell, which is the meaning of the words in 2 Pet 2: 4 where it is said that they were cast “*down to hell.*” Obviously they are not yet in hell being active in this world, but it is their allotted portion. See again Matt 8: 29 – these demons knew that there was an appointed time for their damnation but that it had not yet come. Cf. Luke 8: 30, 31 – same event; note in v.31 the words *the deep*. The word in the original is *abussos* which gives us the English word *abyss*. But five times in Revelation this Greek word *abussos* is translated *bottomless pit* – which is a synonym for *the lake of fire*, the place of eternal damnation. So, Luke’s data informs us that these demons who knew that there was an appointed time for their punishment also knew that there was a place – the *abyss* or the *bottomless pit*. Note how fearful they were that Christ would at that time send them to the *abyss*. What an indictment on men! Sinners are warned of hell and the wrath to come, but they mock such a message while the demons know full well the end that awaits them, James 2: 19 – “*the demons...believe and tremble.*” Rev 12: 12 – the devil “*knoweth that he hath but a short time.*”

2 Pet 2: 4 & Jude v.6 also reveal that these fallen angels are under chains of darkness. Note the words: “*delivered...into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment...*” & “*Reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*” We note at once that these cannot be literal chains. In the first instance those chained are *spirit beings* and a spirit cannot be literally chained with a physical chain. Also, note that they are referred to by Peter as *chains of darkness* & Jude says that they are *in everlasting chains under darkness*. I would suggest to you that the terms indicate that these fallen angels, including Satan, are hopelessly doomed; they are confirmed in their fallen state – spiritually bound under darkness with no hope of ever being redeemed. There is no redemption for the fallen angels, Heb 2: 16 – Christ did not take angelic nature for He did not come to redeem angels but fallen men.

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However, while Satan and his angels are doomed to eternal wrath they are still active in this world – against mankind in general but the Church in particular. The language of Scripture would indicate that Satan and his angels are like an army, Rev 12: 7 – “*the dragon fought and his angels.*” There is also the great passage in Eph 6 dealing with the Christian’s spiritual warfare, revealing that the Church is locked in combat with “*principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places.*” The point is that Satan marshals his forces against the Church. Keep in mind that the devil is not omnipresent. But he has an army of demons at his bidding and certainly employs them in his battle against truth.

It is important to note that it is a *spiritual battle* that is in view in these Scriptures; and throughout the Scripture there are many details revealed that confirm that there is a great spiritual struggle between Christ & Satan, light & darkness, truth & error etc. Satan, therefore, is a restless and relentless enemy, Job 1: 7, Matt 12: 43-45. He afflicts the saints as God permits it, Job 1: 12; he wrestles against the saints, Eph 6: 12; he slanders the saints, Job 1: 9-11 & accuses them, Rev 12: 10; he opposes prayer, Zech 3: 1.

However, Satan’s activity is to a great degree directed against the progress of the Gospel & the work of God. Satan is described as “*the god of this world...*” 2 Cor 4: 4. This is not to be understood in that sense that Satan rules this world. He claims authority over this world, Luke 4: 6, but his claim is false for he is subject to God – always having been and always will be. However, he is *god of this world* in the sense that he has access to the darkened minds of men and is able to manipulate and control them. Thus, he blinds the minds of unbelievers, 2 Cor 4: 4; he dominates & captivates them, Acts 26: 18; he removes the good seed of the Gospel, Matt 13: 19; he deceives, 2 Cor 2: 11; he lies, John 8: 44. All of this activity is exercised against the world of the unsaved in an attempt to prevent the conversion of sinners.

Furthermore, Satan is active in the world in the form of spreading great spiritual darkness & lying wonders, 2 Thess 2: 9, and it is at this point that he especially uses the hordes of demons at his disposal. Demons are particularly active in the world of religion. For example, the worship of idols is in reality the worship of demons. See 1 Cor 10: 19, 20 – Paul is dealing with the situation in Corinth where some were eating meat that had been offered in the heathen temple. There was nothing wrong with the meat, but Paul points out that in having been offered to idols it had actually been offered to demons, for idolatry is the worship of demons. Cf. Deut 32: 16, 17 & Psalms 106: 35-37.

Then, within the professing church demons are active in seducing people from the truth, 1 Tim 4: 1. This is surely the most subtle work that is done by Satan and his demons, cf. 2 Cor 11: 14-15.