

Christian Ministry Unit 1-Module 2

Introduction to Theology

Week 7 – Satanology Part 1

Introduction

“Satanology” is the biblical study of Satan and demons.

Satan’s existence

References in the Old Testament include:

- Gen. 3 – (see Rev. 12:9)
Job 1,2
Deut. 32:17
1 Chron. 21:1
Zech. 3:1,2

Almost every New Testament book contains references to Satan and demons.

- In the gospels, Jesus clearly speaks of Satan as a real person who is his main enemy Lk. 4:2-13 (and parallels); Mk. 5:2-19 (and other exorcisms); Jn. 8:44.
- Acts makes several references to Satan and his demons as the real foe of the church (Acts 13:10; 16:16-18; 19:12-20).
- Every author of the New Testament letters makes extensive reference to Satan.¹
- Revelation makes extensive references to Satan (e.g., Rev. 12), and narrates his ultimate defeat in great detail (Rev. 19,20).

Personal experience is a secondary line of evidence for Satan’s experience.

Satan’s origin & fall

Ezekiel 28 supplies important information about the origin and fall of Satan. While God laments the fall of the *human* ruler (“leader”) of Tyre in 28:1-10, He speaks of the fall of the *spiritual* ruler (“king”) of Tyre in 28:11-19**.² What God reveals here fits in with other biblical teaching about Satan:

¹ See for example Eph. 1:21 and Col. 2:15 (Paul); Heb. 2:14; Jas. 2:19 (James); 1 Pet. 5:8 (Peter); 1 Jn. 3:8 (John); Jude 1:9 (Jude).

² The Tyrians called Melqart the “king of the city.” Baal-Melqart was Tyre’s primary god. See *The New Bible Dictionary*, p. 109, and *The New Bible Commentary*, p. 678. The Bible regards Satan as the spirit behind all idols (1 Cor. 10:19,20), and some demonic rulers are identified with human nations (Dan. 10:13,20).

- (28:15; 1 Jn. 4:4)
- (28:14; Jude 1:9)
- (28:12,15a)
- (28:16; 1 Tim. 3:6)
- (28:16; Rev. 12:4,9)

Additional biographical information about Satan:

- (Rev. 12:4,9)
- (Gen. 3)
(Matt. 13:49; 2 Cor. 4:4)
(Eph. 6:11)
- (Col. 2:15)
(Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

Introduction to spiritual warfare

God emphasizes three attitudes that are crucial to effective spiritual warfare:

- **Confidence**

1 Jn. 4:4* You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Eph. 6:10-18**

- **Alertness**

1 Pet. 5:8* Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Eph. 6:18

- **Militance**

Matt. 12:28,29; 16:18

2 Cor. 10:3-5

Rev. 12:11* And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

God has exposed Satan's main tactics, and He expects us to know what they are and how to combat them (2 Cor. 2:11). Satan's tactics can be divided into two categories:

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Covert tactics

DECEPTION:

- COMMON AVENUES:

False religions and philosophies (Col. 2:8)

Heresy and false teachers (2 Cor. 11:13)

Doctrinal tangents (Heb. 13:9; 1 Tim. 1:4,5)

Anti-Christian cultural pressure

- COUNTER-MEASURES

Stay in the Bible!

Stay focused on "sound doctrine" (2 Tim. 1:13,14)

Develop the ability to think critically from a biblical perspective (Heb. 5:14)

Be open to corrective input from other Christians (Heb. 3:13; Gal. 2:11)

DOUBT:

- COMMON AVENUES:

External authorities:

Internal, existential doubts:

- COUNTER-MEASURES:

Share your doubts with other Christians!

Check your personal walk.

Study biblical passages where God's people express their doubts (e.g., Job; Psalms; Lamentations)

Expose yourself to answers regarding theological/philosophical doubts.

SEDUCTION: (*kosmos*)

The Bible states that Satan is the author of a “world system” (1 Jn. 5:19; Eph. 2:2) that is designed to distract non-Christians from seeing their need for the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4) and to steal Christians’ affections from Jesus (Jas. 4:4).

- COMMON AVENUES: The world-system – *a satanically-inspired system of values that is designed to distract non-Christians from seeing their need for the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4) and to steal Christians’ affections from Jesus (Jas. 4:4).* 1 Jn. 2:15,16* distills the essence of the world-system into three idolatrous values which can take many forms:

1 Jn. 2:15,16* ¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- “The lust of the flesh” (Hedonism)
- “The lust of the eyes” (Materialism)
- “The boastful pride of life” (Egotism)

NOTE:

NOTE:

- COUNTER-MEASURES:

Do not withdraw from non-Christians or secular culture (Jn. 17:15; 1 Cor. 5:9,10)

Reject the kosmos on an ideological level (1 Jn. 2:17; 2 Pet. 2:18,19).

Ask God to reveal the current ways you are being tempted by the kosmos (Ps. 139:23,24).

Repent if God convicts you that you have compromised with the kosmos (Jas. 4:4-10).

Actively pursue spiritual growth and ministry (1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22).

PERSECUTION:

- COMMON AVENUES:

Society (Rev. 2:10)

Religious community (Jesus and apostles with Jewish leaders)

Family and friends (Matt. 10:21)

- COUNTER-MEASURES:

Make sure you aren't guilty of wrongdoing (1 Pet. 4:15)

Don't be surprised (1 Pet. 4:12; Jn. 15:18-20; 2 Tim. 3:12)

Rejoice, because it is a privilege to suffer for Christ and this is the proof that you are being effective (Phil. 1:29; 1 Pet. 4:14).

Pray and determine to continue serving Christ (especially evangelism) no matter what the cost (Acts 4:23-31).

Stand with other Christians who are undergoing persecution (Heb. 13:3).³

³ For more information on current persecution of Christians, see "Voice of the Martyrs (<http://www.persecution.com/>) and "Open Doors (<http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>).

OPPOSITION:

- COMMON AVENUES:

Circumstantial barriers (1 Thess. 2:18):

Human agents (2 Tim. 2:25,26; see agents in Acts 8,13,16):

- COUNTERMEASURES:

For circumstantial barriers:

For human agents: (2 Thess. 3:2)
 (2 Tim. 2:25,26)
 (1 Tim. 1:20)

Memory Verses

Ezek. 28:11-19** - Satan's origin and fall

Eph. 6:10-18** - Our real battle is against the schemes of Satan. Our primary armor and weapons are our position in Christ, the Word and prayer.

Rev. 12:11* - Christians overcome Satan's accusations through grace, his deception through the Word, and his persecution through radical commitment to Christ.

1 Jn. 2:15,16* - Loving the *kosmos* is antithetical to loving God. The key components of the *kosmos* are the lust of the flesh (HEDONISM), the lust of the eye (MATERIALISM), and the boastful pride of life (EGOTISM).

Homework Assignment

1. Read Rev. 12:9-11* Answer in your own words:

What three ways does Satan attack Christians?

In what three ways do we overcome these attacks?

2. *Church Visitation assignment*