

AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP

MIDWEEK SERVICE AND BIBLE STUDY

TOPIC: BEHIND ENEMY LINES PART 2

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Understanding The Enemy

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Ephesians 6:10-13. *10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

1 Peter 5:8-9. *8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

Jesus brought the Kingdom of God to earth to displace the long-standing kingdom of Satan. He ministered through a human nature like ours under the authority of God the Father. When He left, He transferred that authority to His disciples, and through His disciples to us. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:18-19). Satan has from day one regarded that statement- the Great Commission- as a declaration of war.

The Origin of Satan and his kingdom

Isaiah 14:12-15(NKJV). Ezekiel 28:12-17. Revelation 12:7-9.

Satan is real! He is a fallen angel who sought to elevate himself above his status as an archangel. Many bible scholars believe his original name was Lucifer. He vowed to make himself like the Most High. As a result there was rebellion in the heavenly hosts, and there was no way in which this angel, who had chosen to use his free will to oppose his Creator, could be allowed to remain. He, with all his angels, was thrown down to earth, where he took up residence and began to exercise his own spiritual authority in a domain that, for the time being, is under his control. Jesus referred to Satan as the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31), and Paul stated that the "god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving" (2 Corinthians 4:4). Both Jesus and Paul, therefore, recognized the present position that Satan holds in the hierarchy of earth's spiritual powers, and we err badly if we are disparaging or dismissive of the reality of Satan and his kingdom, or his power and areas of authority.

I am not advocating that we pay him any respect in the sense of offering homage (God forbid!), for believers have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of the Son of God (Colossians 1:13). But we place ourselves in grave danger if we are not aware of the wiles(schemes/tricks/devices) of the enemy. Ephesians 6:11. 2 Corinthians 2:11.

Question: what are the devil's schemes? What make us susceptible to these schemes?

Question: What do you think is Satan's ultimate goal concerning you? Your family? the church? Humanity?

The Character and Objectives of Satan

The many different names given in the Bible for Satan help us to understand something of his character.

Tempter- Matthew 4:1-3. **Deceiver**- Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 11:3. **Liar**- John 8:44

Accuser- Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3:1. **Adversary**- 1 Peter 5:8. **Enemy**- Matthew 13:19.

Oppressor- Acts 10:38. **Thief**- John 10:10. **Murderer**- John 8:44.

Satan has always been in rebellion against God, and he has sought to attract worship to himself and turn people away from God. His tactics have not changed since the beginning of time. He still uses the age-old, well-tried temptations that have so effectively led men and women into sin generation after generation. Power, sex, wealth or false religion are at the heart of most of his tactics, however subtly they may be dressed up for public consumption. In fallen man are things such as self-pleasing, greed and lust for power- all of which make fertile ground for Satan to sow his seeds of rebellion.

James 1:13-15. *13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

Deception is Satan's stock in trade, for once people have been deceived and, as it were, taken the bait, the progression of temptations that can follow is endless. James' advice to "resist the devil" is effective practical guidance for everyday living (James 4:7), for if we do not resist, we lay our lives wide open to the demonic. Satan hates to see people living long, fulfilled lives in the service of God. The sooner a person's life is terminated, the less opportunity there is for salvation to be accepted.

5 Significant contrasts between Satan and God.

God is the Creator. Satan is a created being (Ezekiel 28:13-15).

God is omnipresent. He is present at all times and in all places. Satan is limited in both time and location (Job 1:6-7). He can only, therefore, carry out his work through demons/evil spirits under his command

God is omniscient. There is nothing that He does not know. Satan and his forces are limited in knowledge (Acts 19:15).

God is omnipotent. His power is unlimited (Revelation 4:8, AMP). Satan's power is limited and restricted within the confines that God has allowed (Job 1:6-12).

God is eternal. There is no beginning or ending to God's Kingdom. Satan's time is strictly limited (Revelation 12:12). One day Jesus is coming again as King of kings and Lord of Lords. At that time Satan's rule and reign will come to an end. Satan and his demons know the Scriptures well, and the prophetic words in the Bible that tell of the end for Satan and all his angels are feared and hated by the demonic powers. Revelations 20:7-15; Hebrews 2:14-15; Matthew 25:41-46.