

What The Bible Says About ---

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Part Four

S A T A N

1 The greatest trick Satan has ever pulled on humanity - and he had pulled thousands of
2 them through the ages - is getting people to believe he does not exist. They are wrong.
3 He DOES exist. Assisted by those fallen angels allowed to roam the earth, he does his
4 evil work in every nation and in every generation, all the time laughing to himself that
5 most people do not believe he is even real. According to a poll taken by the George
6 Barna group, most "professing Christians" doubt his reality. Again we are confronted
7 head-on with the demonic reality: PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE
8 REALLY SAYS.

THE DUMB-ING DOWN OF THE CHURCH

It is largely the fault of pastors who preach everything under the sun except the actual Bible. Paul, in his last will and testament, written from Nero's death house, wrote this plea: TIMOTHY - PREACH THE WORD! (II Timothy 4:2) What does the Bible actually TEACH? Pastors must explain the Word. That means they have to study. But then, so do their students. 2 Tim. 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Visitors to First Assembly often tell me they hear things from this pulpit they never hear in their own church. Many say to me, "You know, we are not fed the Word where we attend." I wonder why, then, they attend there. Would you go to a grocery store whose shelves were empty? Or to a restaurant where they had no food - only menus? Then why attend, and support a spiritual "restaurant" that continues not to feed the people?

As a result of this dumb-ing down of churches, we now have a generation of alleged followers of Christ who don't even believe in the existence of the arch enemy of God and His work. Small wonder Satan has such a free reign on this planet. He must laugh his proverbial socks off.

11 Skeptics of the Bible mock any concept of Satan as a distinct personality. They will
12 couch his work in terms of a darkness on the personality of various people such as Hitler.
13 But the Scriptures testify over and over of the personality of Satan. He had a certain
14

1 the other hand, I encourage you - and challenge you - with all my heart to study the Word
2 for yourself.

3
4 Skeptics of the Bible mock any concept of Satan as a distinct personality. They will
5 couch his work in terms of a darkness on the personality of various people such as Hitler.
6 But the Scriptures testify over and over of the personality of Satan. He had a certain
7 beginning - a malevolent present - and a disastrous ending.

8
9 In the Bible, Satan is known by many different names: (I give you here several Bible
10 references per name; however, there are many more scriptures with the names)

11
12 • **SATAN** (The word means “adversary.” 1 Tim. 1:20 **Of whom is Hymenaeus**
13 **and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to**
14 **blaspheme.**

15 1 Chron. 21:1 **And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number**
16 **Israel.**

17 Matthew 4:10 **Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written,**
18 **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

19
20 • **DEVIL** John 13:2 **And supper being ended, the devil having now put into**
21 **the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;**
22 Ephes. 6:11 **Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against**
23 **the wiles of the devil.** (This term does not appear in the Old Testament to my
24 knowledge.) As the devil he is the slanderer, accuser of the believers Rev. 12:10 **And**
25 **I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the**
26 **kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is**
27 **cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**

28
29 • **DRAGON** The Greek word is *tannin* which means “serpent.” Ezekiel 29:3
30 **Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king**
31 **of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My**
32 **river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.**

33
34 • **SERPENT** Genesis 3:1 **Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of**
35 **the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea,**
36 **hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**

37
38 Rev. 20:2 **And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and**
39 **Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

- 1 • **BEELZEBUB** Matthew 10:25 **It is enough for the disciple that he be as his**
2 **master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house**
3 **Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?**
4

5 Mark 3:22 **And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath**
6 **Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.** The term means
7 “lord of dung.” Very appropriate.
8

- 9 • **BELIAL** (or Beliar) 2 Cor. 6:15 **And what concord hath Christ with Belial?**
10 **or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?**
11

- 12 • **LUCIFER** Isaiah 14:12 **How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of**
13 **the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the**
14 **nations!** This name means “morning star” and is sometimes used to describe
15 the planet Venus. It means “light-bearer.” After his fall from God’s presence,
16 Satan became the bearer of terrible darkness.
17

18 **IN SCRIPTURE SATAN IS REFERRED TO AS:**
19

- 20 • **THE WICKED ONE** Matthew 13:19 **When any one heareth the word of the**
21 **kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth**
22 **away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the**
23 **way side.**
24

- 25 • **THE TEMPTER** 1 Thessalonians. 3:5 **For this cause, when I could no longer**
26 **forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have**
27 **tempted you, and our labour be in vain.**
28

- 29 • **THE GOD OF THIS WORLD** 2 Cor. 4:4 **In whom the god of this world**
30 **hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious**
31 **gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**
32

- 33 • **THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR** Ephes. 2:2 **Wherein in time**
34 **past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince**
35 **of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of**
36 **disobedience:**
37

- 38 • **THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD** John 12:31 **Now is the judgment of this**
39 **world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.**
40

1 It should be carefully noted here that although Satan's work now in this world seems to
2 be prevalent, God has set definite bounds to him and when the time comes Satan will be
3 superseded by the rule of the One Whose right it is to rule, Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord.
4

5 Thiessen: *We shall say only a brief word on the organization of the hosts of wickedness.*
6 *There is such an organization. Satan is at the head of it. The "principalities" in*
7 *Romans 8:38 (For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor*
8 *principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,) are manifestly*
9 *princedom of evil rulers. In Ephes. 6:12 (For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,*
10 *but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,*
11 *against spiritual wickedness in high places.) the principalities, powers, and world rulers*
12 *of this darkness, and the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places refer very*
13 *clearly to the organization of the forces of evil.*

14 LECTURES IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY / THIESSEN / P. 203 / EERDMAN PUBL
15

16 THE WORK OF THIS "EVIL HOST" 17

18 1. They attempt to separate the believer from Christ. Again-Romans 8:38. Physical
19 affliction can sometimes come from them. Today many around the world face vicious
20 spiritual persecution. It is my feeling that much of today's mocking of God, His Word
21 and His people are the work of the "evil host" of Satan and his minions.
22

23 2. They vigorously oppose the work of the good angels. Daniel 10:12-13 **Then said**
24 **he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to**
25 **understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am**
26 **come for thy words. [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one**
27 **and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I**
28 **remained there with the kings of Persia.**
29

30 *Late in his prestigious life, Daniel was dismayed that only a small percentage of the*
31 *former Jewish captives returned to Israel when the new Persian monarch Cyrus allowed*
32 *them to go. He fasted and prayed for three weeks, seemingly to no avail. While he*
33 *prayed, a spiritual battle of great magnitude was occurring. A demon (the prince of*
34 *Persia as he was called here) prevented Daniel from receiving God's message from the*
35 *angel. Because of this conflict, Daniel had to wait 21 days for the revelation. This*
36 *demon was defeated only when Michael, Israel's prince, came to help the angel.*
37 *Though satanic forces wished to hinder the reception of this vision about Israel, Israel's*
38 *angelic prince proved stronger.*

39 LIFE IN THE SPIRIT STUDY BIBLE / P. 1276 / ZONDERVAN
40
41

1 The final demise of Satan and his minions is horrible. They will all have their part in the
2 lake of fire (Matthew 25:41 **Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand,**
3 **Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his**
4 **angels:)**
5

6 As for Satan himself, he will be bound and confined in hell for a thousand years (during
7 the Millennium on Earth). Then he will be loosed for a short time when he will marshal
8 those earthlings who resent Christ's rule. They will launch an attack on Jerusalem but
9 God will quickly quell this insurrection once and for all: Rev. 20:7-10 **And when the**
10 **thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, [8] And shall go**
11 **out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and**
12 **Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the**
13 **sea. [9] And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of**
14 **the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven,**
15 **and devoured them. [10] And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of**
16 **fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be**
17 **tormented day and night for ever and ever.** That will be Satan's last hurrah, as well
18 as that of the evil angels. Their final destiny is hell where they will be tormented
19 forever.
20

21 (I often tell the congregation: the next time Satan reminds you of your past, you remind
22 him of his future!!)
23

24 **SATAN'S DESTRUCTION OF GOD'S MASTERPIECE** 25 **IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN** 26

27 I want to take time with this because "the fall of man" is absolute in our theology and
28 need of a Savior. The following pages are intrinsic to our understanding of God's plan
29 of salvation. The scriptures here will tell us:
30

- 31 1. Why we are born as sinners
- 32 2. Why we need a Savior
- 33 3. The destiny of humans without God's redemption
34

35 Basic Judaism refutes these teachings. My rabbinical friends insist to me that they were
36 not born as sinners, therefore, they have no need of a Savior. These teachings show us
37 why our "good works" are not sufficient to save us from our fallen natures. The moral
38 character of God spotlights the idea of sin and its effects upon us. **SO NOW WE**
39 **STUDY THE NATURE OF SIN AND THE ONLY TRUE REMEDY FOR IT.**
40

1 Genesis 3:1-24

2 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God
3 had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of
4 every tree of the garden?

5 [2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of
6 the garden: [3] But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God
7 hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. [4] And the
8 serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in
9 the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods,
10 knowing good and evil. [6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for
11 food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise,
12 she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her;
13 and he did eat. [7] And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they
14 were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. [8]
15 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the
16 day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God
17 amongst the trees of the garden. [9] And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said
18 unto him, Where art thou? [10] And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I
19 was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. [11] And he said, Who told thee
20 that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that
21 thou shouldest not eat? [12] And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be
22 with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. [13] And the Lord God said unto the
23 woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent
24 beguiled me, and I did eat. [14] And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because
25 thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the
26 field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:
27 [15] And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and
28 her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. [16] Unto the
29 woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow
30 thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall
31 rule over thee. [17] And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the
32 voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying,
33 Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of
34 it all the days of thy life; [18] Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and
35 thou shalt eat the herb of the field; [19] In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,
36 till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and
37 unto dust shalt thou return. [20] And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she
38 was the mother of all living. [21] Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God
39 make coats of skins, and clothed them. [22] And the Lord God said, Behold, the man
40 is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand,

1 **and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: [23] Therefore the Lord**
2 **God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was**
3 **taken. [24] So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden**
4 **Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree**
5 **of life.**

6
7 In Genesis 2:17, God told Adam and Eve, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and
8 evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
9 They disobeyed....but physically they did not die. What died was God’s spirit within
10 them. That spirit was placed with them miraculously by God at their creation: Genesis
11 2:7 **And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his**
12 **nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

13
14 Upon disobeying God, introducing man’s rebellion into the world, the Spirit of God
15 inside them died - instantly. Not their bodies, their souls! Adam and Eve became the
16 parents of the human race, a race, therefore, by inheritance of sinners. When you and I
17 were born, we were born without God Spirit within us. Our souls were dead. That’s
18 what caused this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus:

19
20 **John 3:1-6 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the**
21 **Jews: [2] The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that**
22 **thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest,**
23 **except God be with him. [3] Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say**
24 **unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. [4]**
25 **Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the**
26 **second time into his mother's womb, and be born? [5] Jesus answered, Verily, verily,**
27 **I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter**
28 **into the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which**
29 **is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

30
31 No matter how good we think we are, how “neat and tidy” we believe we have kept our
32 lives, without the new birth we cannot see the Kingdom of God and receive eternal life.
33 Regeneration is a re-creating of spiritual life in the human heart. Romans 12:2 **And be**
34 **not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,**
35 **that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**
36 Ephes. 4:23-24 **And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; [24] And that ye put on**
37 **the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

38
39 Through this supernatural and amazing process, God’s life is imparted to the believer’s
40 heart. At that point we become a child of God. John 1:12 **But as many as received**

1 **him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on**
2 **his name:**

3
4 Regeneration is necessary because all people, prior to turning to God, are in their
5 INHERENT NATURES sinners who are spiritually dead, incapable of ever pleasing God,
6 no matter how many “good things” they do. Regeneration comes to those who truly
7 repent of their sin, turn to God and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

8
9 Regeneration involves a transition from an old life of sin to a new life of loving
10 obedience to Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:17 **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new**
11 **creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.)**

12 13 TIP OFF TO SATAN’S CHARACTER

14
15 The Genesis 3 account of the Garden of Eden teaches us immediately that Satan is subtle
16 - which Webster’s Dictionary defines as crafty, cunning or sly. One may get hints at
17 truth, but never the whole truth from Satan. He is the father of lies. In his come-on to
18 Eve he deliberately denied what God has clearly said, that is, if she and Adam ate the
19 forbidden fruit they would die. Satan said, “Surely not...you will not surely die.” A
20 direct confrontation with God’s edict.

21
22 Same-old, same-old today. Satan has so much of today’s society in one of two positions:

- 23 * They don’t know what God said for they don’t know the Word, or
- 24 * They just simply don’t care what God said.

25
26 One as to ask, “Why did Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit?” They didn’t need the
27 fruit (whatever it was) for physical sustenance, for they had more to eat in the Garden
28 than they could possibly ever have consumed. Aha - here’s the tip off. There is a
29 rebellious streak even in the best of men and women. **AND SATAN PREYS ON**
30 **THAT.** Every person has a weakness. We are not allowed to judge one another for our
31 weakness may not be the same as that of another person. You might not be tempted to
32 do what I might be tempted to do. **THE ATTACKS OF SATAN COME AT US IN**
33 **THE TARGET OF OUR WEAKNESS!** He is clever!

34
35 If we are aware of our areas of temptation, it’s a tip-off that is the vulnerability we battle.
36 That becomes the focus of Satan’s lying and tempting attacks against us.

37
38 **WHAT IF THE ORIGINAL COUPLE HAD NOT SINNED?** Would the consequences
39 of obedience been as great as the consequences of disobedience? But they **DID** sin.
40 And that sin –

- 1 • affected their relationship to God. It broke fellowship with the divine.
- 2 • affected their own nature...now they had a sense of shame and degradation
- 3 • affected their bodies - brought sickness and death
- 4 • affected their environment....even animal creation suffered.

5
6 WE ARE AMPLY WARNED IN SCRIPTURE ABOUT SATAN AND HIS WORK

7
8 **1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring**
9 **lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: [9] Whom resist stedfast in the**
10 **faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are**
11 **in the world.**

12
13 When humanity fell into sin, Satan became the ruler of the world. He presently
14 dominates everywhere and is commander of a host of evil spirits. (Remember that,
15 unlike God, Satan cannot be everywhere for he is not omnipresent.) But we believers in
16 Christ are delivered from his power. We need to be aware of Satan's devices for he will
17 spiritually destroy anyone who abandons God's protection. Through our vigilance of
18 remaining close to God, we are fully protected to defeat Satan for: 1 John 4:4 **Ye are of**
19 **God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you,**
20 **than he that is in the world.**

21
22
23
24 NEXT WEEK: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT....JESUS