

The Nature and Activities of Satan and His Demons

Agents of Good and Agents of Evil - A Catalyst Study led by Dr. Jeremy Couture

Introduction

- One of our families' favorite games in *Beyond Balderdash*.
 - The word *balderdash* means "nonsense" or, "silliness," and that's the game's main objective. Players choose between 5 categories (words, people, initials, movies, and dates), and then take turns trying to bluff others into choosing their answer.
 - One of my favorite categories is Movie/TV Shows, so we're gonna play a quick round right now. I'll give you the name of a popular T.V. show and you'll think to yourself about a convincing, one-sentence plot line to describe it.
 - The name of the T.V. Show is...*Lucifer*....and here's the real plot line: Lucifer is the devil but abandons Hell to run a nightclub in Los Angeles, subsequently experiencing massive life changes when he becomes a consultant to the Los Angeles Police Department. (It also helps that he's handsome like a model)
- As we talked about last week, the spiritual world is popular subject for many people, but Biblical accuracy has gotten lost in the translation.
- So far in our series, we've introduced the spiritual world with a survey of spiritual activity in the books of Genesis and Revelation and taken a closer look at the nature of angels and their various activities in the world.
- Tonight, we'll look more closely at the nature and activities of Satan and his demon helpers.
- Before we get too far, I want to remind you of the Creator/creature categories we established last week.
 - Satan and the demons are clearly in the creature category (They are under the authority and glory of the Creator God)
 - They share the same nature as their created counterparts, the angels.

Discussion Question #1

I. The Nature of Satan

- A. He is a fallen angel.
 - 1. As an angel he was made by God, but as Satan, he was self-made.
 - 2. In Jude 9, he struggled with Michael the archangel, so it would make sense if Satan was an arch angel before his fall.
 - 3. He entered Judas before the betrayal of Christ. Other than that, there are no other Biblical accounts where Satan appeared or inhabited a human form. (John 13:27)
- B. The various names used in Scripture to describe him give us further clues into his nature.
 - 1. The Serpent (Gen. 3:1)
 - 2. Tempter (Mt. 4:3)
 - 3. Beelzebub (Mk 3:22)
 - 4. Enemy (Matt. 13:39 – the one who opposes God's harvest)
 - 5. Evil one (1 Jo. 2:13)

6. Belial (2 Cor. 6:15 – the god of the underworld)
 7. Adversary (1 Pe. 5:8)
 8. Deceiver (Rev. 12:9)
 9. Great dragon (Rev. 12:3 – see logo including a stained-glass window from the Cathedral of Saint Bavo in Ghent, Belgium, depicting Michael the Archangel slaying Satan, presented as a dragon.
 10. Father of lies (Jo. 8:44)
 11. Murder (Jo. 8:44 – why? Cain and Abel or being cut off from God?)
 12. Sinner (1 Jo. 3:8)
- C. The Fall of Satan**
1. In the flow of Scripture, Satan steps onto the scene in Genesis 3, already fallen.
 2. In 1 Timothy 3:6, we learn that Satan's original sin was pride and conceit.
 3. In Luke 10:17-20, we learn that Satan's original home was in heaven and that his fall was followed by a cosmic war.
 4. There are two OT prophecies seem to describe Satan in his pre-fall state, in addition to describing a human leader.
 - a. In Ezekiel 28:11-19, exaggerated language describes a perfect being, that held a privileged place in God's order before being cast out of God's presence for pride and "iniquities."
 - b. In Isaiah 14:12-19, similar exaggerated language describes a being cast out of heaven for challenging God's ultimate authority.

Discussion Question #2

II. The Activities of Satan

- A. He is a tempter (Gen. 3, Mt. 4:1-11)
- B. He is an adversary of the righteous (Job 1:9, Zech. 3:1-5, M.k 4:15)
- C. He is an opposer God's plans (1 Chron. 21:1-2)
- D. He is the ruler of this world (Jo. 12:31)

III. The Demons

- A. In the cosmic war, Michael and his angels do battle with the devil and his angels, also known as demons (Rev. 12:7-9).
- B. They are intelligent and recognize Christ's true identity (Lk. 4:34).
- C. They can express emotions like fear (Lk 8:28).
- D. They can possess a human body individually or in large numbers (Mk. 1:26, 5:9).
- E. They can harass human subjects (Lk. 4:35).

Conclusion

- Here are
 - Connect the dots between evil and Instigator.
 - Unthinkable events like 911 and the Columbine shooting are evidence that real evil does exist in our world today.
 - Just as order and beauty are an apologetic for God, evil is an apologetic for Satan.
 - Beware of deception and false theology (1 Ti. 4:1-5)
 - There is a real danger today in falling away from the truth.
 - A significant portion of the “untruth” that exists in our world is comes through demonic influence.
- Satan and his demons may be lurking, but our God is greater than all that!

Discussion Questions

1. What is one of your biggest questions when it comes to Satan and his demon helpers?
2. What lessons can we take away from what the Bible says about Satan’s nature and his fall from glory?