

The study of Angels Our adversary – the devil

In the world today we have an adversary, he is real, and he is at work around us. However, he has become nothing more than a mythical cartoon character for many people in the world today.

I. The Reality of Satan

- There is a belief that Satan is not really a “person” but merely a force of evil in the world. There is no actual devil that exists, we are the “devil” when we do evil.

A. Evidence from the Scripture

- 1) Seven books in the Old Testament teach his reality
 - Genesis, 1 Chronicles, Job, Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah
- 2) Every writer of the New Testament affirmed his reality
- 3) Christ’s teaching also assumes and affirms Satan’s existence and activity.
 - In 25 of the 29 Gospel passages that speak of Satan, Christ is speaking.
(Matt. 13:39; Luke 10:18; 11:18)

B. He is a person

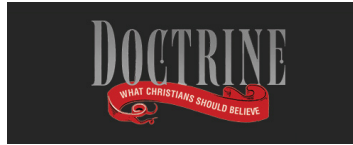
- 1) Traits of personality:
 - Will (Isa. 14:12-14) - Emotions (Rev.12:17) - Intelligence (2 Cor. 11:3)
- 2) He is referred to as a person:
 - Old and New Testaments (Job 1; Matt. 4:1-12)
- 3) He is morally responsible:
 - If he was just a personification of evil, he could not be held accountable
 - But Christ holds him accountable (Matt. 25:41)

C. His nature

- 1) He is a spirit being – He is a cherubim and apparently equal to or more power than an archangel (Jude 9) He is also called the god of this world and prince of the air (2 Cor. 4:4)
- 2) He is a creature that desires control nations – Ezekiel 28:11-19
 - This passage is one that has been debated, there are several different views on who is the “King of Tyre?” (Tyre is modern day Lebanon)

- To summarize

- a) Some believe this is only referring to a human King of Tyre
- b) A regional mythological unreal being
- c) Satan himself or someone under Satan’s control



NOTE:

I believe that Ezekiel is addressing the human prince in vs. 1-10 and the coming lamentation or judgment against him, but then goes beyond that and address's Satan in vs. 11-19. In the context of a being that was in "Eden the garden of God" and "upon God's holy mountain" Satan is the only one that makes sense. Satan could have been the power behind the prince's reign, as the prince wanted to be a god himself, full of pride. Ultimately the prince of Tyre was defeated and judged, as will be the Prince of the air, Satan, be judged and is already defeated.

So, what do we learn about Satan from this passage in Ezekiel:

- 1) He had unparalleled wisdom and beauty (vs.12)
- 2) He had an unparalleled habitation (vs. 13)
- 3) He had an unparalleled covering (vs. 13)
- 4) He had an unparalleled function (vs 14)
- 5) He had unparalleled perfection (vs. 15)

D. His Sin

1) Origin of his sin:

- Ezekiel 28:15 is the only place we read in the Bible of the origin of his sin
 - "sin was found in him"

- 2) The nature of his sin – 1 Timothy 3:6 – arrogance, conceit or being puffed up
- Basically Satan was prideful, and this was so damaging because of his high position, it effected creation, mankind, other angels and the world today.

NOTE:

"All sin is serious, and all sin affects others. But sin in high places is more serious (*in a sense*) and its ramifications more widespread. The sin of Satan should serve as a constant reminder and warning to us."

- Ryrie, Basic Theology (Italicized added)

Extra Notes:
