1 · BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* (1 Timothy 6:12)

1. Although Satan should never be center of our belief, it is important that we understand his place in Scripture and in the unfolding of God’s ultimate plan. No other individual is given such a place from the Bible’s beginning to its end as the character we know as Satan, the devil.

2. Many believers in Christ speak of the devil as a “metaphorical personification of evil,” or accuse those who believe as fanatics (and there have been unscriptural beliefs and activity). The refusal to acknowledge Satan’s existence works to his advantage allowing him to easily deceive mankind to do his bidding.

   A. Satan has been successful in deceiving and enveloping entire nations and cultures in darkness, base superstitions and practices. 2 Corinthians 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

3. The Bible is clear about the creation of Lucifer (later Satan), his fall, his character, work, influence and his ultimate judgement and destiny.

THE MENTION OF SATAN IN THE BIBLE

1. The Hebrew name of Satan is mentioned on five occasions in the Old Testament.

   A. In Genesis 3:15 he is seen as the serpent who deceived Eve in the Garden.

   B. In 1 Chronicles 21:1 we read, “Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved (enticed, provoked) David to number Israel.”

   C. He also appears twice in Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7 “when the sons of God came to present them-
selves before the Lord, and Satan (adversary) also came among them” and began the dramatic confrontations against Job resulting in life altering trials. However, as tragic as the trials were, God brought a “double portion” of restoration to Job’s life!

- Job 43:10-17 ...And the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before...
- 1 Peter 1:6-9 ...that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,...

D. Then Satan is seen in Zechariah 3:1-2 as Joshua the High Priest stood before the Angel of the Lord with Satan, who was resisting him.

2. “Satan” or the “devil” is specifically mentioned 72 times in the New Testament as well as many instances of his evil deeds such as the murder of the children by Herod when Christ was a young child (Matthew 2:16-18).

THE REBELLION IN HEAVEN

Satan began his rebellion against God in Heaven as Lucifer, translated as “the morning star” or “light bringer.” As a created being, the anointed Cherub and perfect in beauty (Ezekiel 28), Lucifer lifted himself up with pride against the authority of God.

1. In a lamentation against the King of Tyre in Ezekiel 28:2, 11-19 we see Lucifer’s position in Heaven.
   - You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers;... Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;...

2. Then in Isaiah 14:12-15 we read about Lucifer’s rebellion against the LORD Almighty in Heaven. Here he declares five “I wills” against God’s authority.
   - How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (Day Star) son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”

3. Revelation 12:7-9 gives us the account of Satan’s fall from Heaven.
   - And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
   - Revelation 12:4 says that his “tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth” and possibly alludes to one third of the angels who also lost their place in Heaven.

A DEEPER LOOK AT LUCIFER’S FIVE “I WILLS”

It seems that the first sin was rebellion against God and a desire for total independence, all motivated out of pride.
1. “I will ascend into heaven” — There are three heavens: the earth and its atmosphere, the cosmic, spiritual heaven (Daniel 10:12-14), and the highest Heaven where God’s Throne is (2 Corinthians 12:1-4). Lucifer desired God’s place and throne in Heaven.

2. “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God” — The “stars” of God refers to the angels in Heaven (Job 38:7; Jude 13; Revelation 12:3-4, 22:16). Lucifer wanted to rule over all the angelic beings.

3. “I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north” — This seems to indicate a desire for an earthly kingdom (Isaiah 2:2; Daniel 2:35).

4. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds” — God’s Divine Glory or Presence is often described as a cloud, a divine visitation of the presence or dwelling of God on the earth (Exodus 40:34-38; 2 Chronicles 5:13-14). Lucifer wanted this glory.

5. “I will be like the Most High” — This is the pinnacle of the other four desires. All of these desires represent independence from God and a willful ambition against God’s Personality, glory and power. As the result of a deliberate, self-determined revolt against God, Lucifer and one third of the angels fell from Heaven!

A. Now in the garden of Eden, note the parallel found in Genesis 3:4-5 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Interesting question: Do you think Lucifer desired the Father’s place or that of the Son of God? How did you arrive at your conclusion? Matthew 4:1-11 may give us a clue.

THE RESULT ON EARTH

When Lucifer was cast out of Heaven, he brought his rebellious plans and deeds to the Garden of Eden and to Adam and Eve. In Genesis 3 we see how sin entered the human race.

1. Satan’s sin originated within himself and was cast to the earth. Man’s sin originated from an internal response to an external tempter and temptation.

A. James 1:13-15 ...But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed...

2. As Adam and Eve responded to Satan’s deception and took from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the glory of God left. They realized their own nakedness and sought covering from things other than God’s Presence (Genesis 3:7).

A. There is some controversy about the topic of Adam and Eve’s “bodies of light” (biophotons). However, when Moses came down the mountain his face shone like the sun because he had been with God (Exodus 34:29-35). This phenomenon would certainly apply to Adam and Eve who spent all that time in the Presence of God!

3. Their relationship with God _________________. Instead of running to God, they hid from Him (Genesis 3:8-10).

4. This brought a curse on the woman, the man and the earth (Genesis 3:14-19) and brought death upon the entire human race.
A. Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned...

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SATAN’S CHARACTER

1. Lucifer, now Satan, still uses the same approach today as he did in the Garden in Genesis 3:4.
   - He challenges the authority of God’s Word.
   - Satan perverts (calls into question) the character of God and His motives.
   - He minimizes God’s standards.
   - He tempts us with human autonomy, “you will be like God…”

2. He is ______________________, crafty, calculating and scheming.
   - 2 Corinthians 2:11 ... in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

3. He is a spirit being but with ______________________.
   - Job 1:12; Job 2:6 The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”

4. He is fully committed to his cause.
   - John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;...

5. He is able to ______________________.
   - 1 Chronicles 21:1 Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.

6. The hook is baited and vulnerable areas are attacked. He appeals to our sensual desires and cloaks (hides) the consequences.
   - James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (2 Samuel 11:2-3)

THE FIRST MENTION OF A SAVIOR IN GENESIS!

1. In the midst of all the devastation of the fall of man, God brings __________ and declares the coming of a Savior who will defeat the very power of Satan and hell!

   A. Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

   B. Referencing Genesis 3:15, Romans 16:20 states that the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

2. Although we are involved in a cosmic, supernatural war with powerful enemies, we are fighting a war with an already defeated foe! This makes all the difference as to how we both see and engage our enemy.

   A. Colossians 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has
taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

B. 1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

3. If Christ disarmed the devil, __________________________________! How then does the enemy fight against us? These and other topics will be discussed in the following lessons.

4. Effective ministry today demands that we recover the knowledge and experience of the “spirit world” that the early church possessed.

A. God wants us to learn ___________________________________ Judges 3:1-3 These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience)...

B. The Kingdoms of this world are enslaved to the evil one (2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:1-2; John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11). The believer must understand that Christianity is a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10-18) and that Jesus has defeated the devil! (Colossians 2:13-15)

“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have perfect peace and confidence. In the world you have trials, distress and frustration; but be convinced, confident and courageous!

I have overcome the world. I have conquered it for you.”

John 16:33

**ASSIGNMENT**

1. **Accountability** | Pick an accountability partner for the class. A group of two or three is best. You can either meet at an agreed upon place (Starbucks) or connect by phone conference call.

2. **Read the lesson** | Lesson 1.


4. **Time Sheet** | Honestly record your week using the Weekly Time Sheet (Romans 8:1).

5. **Memorize** | Ephesians 6:10-11.

6. **Intercessors** | Please pick up a list of the students for prayer.
ANSWERS LESSON 1

changed
deceptive
limitations
influence
hope

he has no weapons
spiritual warfare
**WEEKLY TIME SHEET & JOURNAL**  “...redeeming the time...” Ephesians 5:16

Check ✓ each box as you do the activity for that day.

Name ____________________________ Date ___________________________

My accountability partners are _______________________________________

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Write the memory verse here before class. (From memory)

Journal on the back (please be brief and to the point)