

SATAN, THE DEVIL, IS OUR ADVERSARY

by

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There is a being, called Satan, who is mentioned from beginning to end of the Holy Bible. He tempted Eve and caused the original fall. The woman's excuse was that "the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." (Genesis 3:13) The man's excuse was "The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." (Genesis 3:12) Yahweh cursed the ground for the man's sake because of this sin, and He multiplied the woman's sorrow in conception and caused her desire to be for her husband, who would rule over her. (Genesis 3:16-17) But, to the serpent Yahweh said, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

This was the recorded beginning of a long history of man's walk as he became continually tempted, deceived, hindered, accused, troubled, and killed by the serpent, called Satan. It also caused Yahweh to sacrifice His only begotten Son so that mankind might live. "...that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;" (Hebrews 2:14).

Speaking to some of the Jews, Yahshua said, "Ye are of *your* father the devil...He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44) Satan came to lie, steal, and destroy. He wants to destroy Yahweh's creation, because they have a better inheritance than he does now that he has sinned. He transforms himself into an angel of light, in order to deceive us (2 Corinthians 11:14). We should not be ignorant of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11). I Peter 5:8-9 says, 'Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith...**'

Satan does not do the whole work of harassing mankind; he has many fallen angels to help him and possibly legions of other creations, called demons, who are loyal to him. He has them organized in military fashion so that they fear to deviate from his orders, under his authority. Ephesians 6:12 tells us, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but **against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**" When you study the original meaning of these words, you find that it could have been rendered, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in heavenly places." Did you notice? They have

“principalities.” They have “powers.” They are the rulers of the dark side of this world. And, yet, they try to appear to us to be associated with an angel of light.

James 2:19 tells us, “Thou believest that there is one Almighty; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” They tremble because they know they are condemned by the One True Almighty, who is in authority over their boss, Satan. They know their time is limited. That's why, in the story of the demon possessed men at Gergesene, the demons asked Yahshua, “What have we to do with thee, Yahshua, thou Son of Yahweh? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?” (Matthew 8:29 and Mark 5:7) Matthew 4:2 tells us, concerning Yahshua, “And His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.” Acts 5:16 tells us, “There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.” In the report of the Jewish exorcists, who were casting out evil spirits in the name of Yahshua, recorded in Acts 19:13-20, the demon spoke to them and said, “Yahshua I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?”

In Luke 9:1, we find that Yahshua gave this same power to cast out demons and cure diseases to His disciples. “Then He called His twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.” He tells us by His Word that we will do even greater things than those. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12)

We must not allow evil spirits or “strong men” to “take our armor and divide our spoils.” (See Luke 11:20-22.) Many are bound today by demons, even as the woman mentioned in Luke 13:11. Yahshua said Satan had bound her. See Luke 13:15-16 where it says, “Yahshua then answered him, and said, *Thou* hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose *his* ox or *his* ass from the stall, and lead *him* away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?”

Yahshua came to “...preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.” (Luke 4:18 and Isaiah 61:1) All of this healing has to do with deliverance from evil spirits. He gives us authority to do

these things in His Name. Matthew 18:18 tells us, “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Again, authority was given to those who received the Holy Spirit, “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.” (John 20:23) This is awesome responsibility! We must not be ignorant of Satan's devices. 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 tells us we must be willing to forgive others their trespasses. “To whom ye *forgive* any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Yahshua; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” If we do not forgive, Satan has legal ground to come against us. James 4:7 tells us to “Submit yourselves therefore to Yah. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

The Word shows that Satan was allowed to test many of those whom we may not think should have been tested. Read the story of Job (Job 1:1, 6-12 and James 5:11). Joshua, the High Priest was resisted by Satan: “And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of Yahweh, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And Yahweh said unto Satan, Yahweh rebuke thee, O Satan; even Yahweh that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?” (Zechariah 3:1-2) After His fast, Yahshua was tempted three times by Satan, the devil. (See Matthew 4:5-10) Luke 22:3 says, “Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.” Satan actually entered into one of the original apostles, one of the men who were the confidants of Yahshua, Himself. Yahshua rebuked Peter for allowing Satan to enter his thoughts: “And Yahshua said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to *have* you ,that he may sift *you* as wheat:” (Luke 22:3 1) Paul had a “thorn in the flesh, allowing a messenger of Satan to buffet him.” (See 2 Corinthians 12:7) I Thessalonians 2:18 shows that Paul was hindered by Satan, too. Paul said, “Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.” Another example of hindering is in Daniel 10:12-13. After Daniel had prayed, the angel who came to answer him said, “Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy Almighty, thy words were heard, and lam come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days...” We know this could not have been an earthly prince who hindered the angel.

We might have gross trials, too, but we are promised a crown of life, if we overcome. Revelation 2:10 says, “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that you maybe tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give

thee a crown of life.” By contrast, Satan knows his time is almost up. He knows the Word, perhaps better than we do. It says in Revelation 12:9-10, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our Almighty, and the power of His Anointed One: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our Yah day and night.” Yahshua said that, by His death, Satan would be cast out. “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.” (John 12:31) He is now in the process of drawing all men to Himself, thus taking them from Satan's influence, if they will come. (See verse 32.) He said He saw “Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” (Luke 10:18) We need to “strive to enter the straight gate,” as it says in Luke 13:24.

Romans 8:37-39 tells us, “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, **nor principalities, nor powers**, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, **nor any other creature**, shall be able to separate us from the love of Yahweh, which is in Yahshua our Messiah.” What wonderful promises! None of these things can keep us from the love of Yahweh, because we have been given authority over them, in Yahshua’s Name. We have been delivered from the power of Satan and his demons, if we will claim deliverance.

Ephesians 1:17-23 asks, “That the Almighty of our Messiah, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in The Anointed One, when He raised Him from the dead, and set *Him* at His own right hand in the heavenly *places*, **far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named**, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* the head over all *things* to the assembly, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.” “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the assembly the manifold wisdom of Yah.” (Ephesians 3:10)

Yahweh promised in Exodus 23:22, “But if thou shalt indeed obey His voice, and do all that I speak; then **I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.**” Proverbs 11:9 tells us “...but through

knowledge shall the just be delivered.” Acts 26:18 shows what Yahshua wants for us: “To open their eyes, and to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto Yah, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Satan has accused, hindered, entered, and harassed mankind since he told Eve the original lie in the Garden that she would not surely die. He will work especially hard in this end time, for he knows he has but a short time left (Revelation 12:12), and he is angry. He knows that he will be bound for a thousand years in the near future, and will be unable to influence the thinking of mankind. He knows the prophecy in Revelation 20:2-3 is sure. He is not looking forward to it, but we are. “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.” Satan also knows Romans 16:20, which says, “And the Mighty One of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly...” This will bring to a conclusion the curse placed on him in the Garden.

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