

# The Basics of our Enemy

## I. Introduction

- A. Jesus faced a powerful rebellious angel in the wilderness.
- B. Satan lost his battle with Jesus, but he was not destroyed.
- C. **Ephesians 6:12** Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world.
- D. **1 Peter 5:8** Control yourselves and be careful! The devil, your enemy, goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat.
  - 1. God clearly defined our enemy as the devil or Satan. His name was Lucifer in Heaven, but after being cast out, he was called by his nick names:
    - a) Accuser (Revelation 12:10)
    - b) Dragon (Revelation 12:7)
    - c) Snake (Revelation 12:9)
    - d) Devil (Matthew 4:1)
    - e) Satan (Mark 8:33)

## II. The Reality of Satan

- A. Today many people do not believe Satan is real.
- B. The Bible shows Satan as a very real person.
- C. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible recognizes Satan to be a person as real as Gabriel or Michael.
- D. The oldest book of the Bible, Job, presents Satan as joining the angels to report his activities to God.
- E. Satan is mentioned fifty-five times in forty-nine separate verses, and in each of these he is viewed as a person.

## III. The Rank of Satan in Heaven

- A. Satan is one of the highest species of God's creation.
- B. Michael is called an archangel. He is a person of great power and position. But he must have been beneath Satan because he refused to rebuke Satan in the argument over Moses' body.

**Jude 1:9** Not even the archangel Michael, when he argued with the devil about who would have the body of Moses, dared to judge the devil guilty. Instead, he said, "The Lord punish you."
- C. Satan must have been a most gorgeous creature.

**Ezekiel 28:13-15** You had a wonderful life, as if you were in Eden, the garden of God. Every valuable gem was on you: ruby, topaz, and emerald, yellow quartz, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and chrysolite. Your jewelry was made of gold. It was prepared on the day you were created. <sup>14</sup> I appointed a living creature to guard you. I put you on the holy

mountain of God. You walked among the gems that shined like fire. <sup>15</sup> Your life was right and good from the day you were created, until evil was found in you.

D. "...Your jewelry was made of gold. It was prepared on the day you were created." (Ezekiel 28:13).

E. Satan is spoken of as "...[walking] among the gems that shined like fire" (Ezekiel 28:14,16).

F. It is likely that Satan was the leader of the angels of Heaven.

#### IV. The Revolt of Satan

A. it is almost unbelievable that someone so glorious would revolt against God.

B. Satan's revolt was his trying to exalt himself above God.

C. From our position on the earth, we cannot imagine the confusion this created in Heaven.

D. Satan, like so many people since him, was not satisfied to be what God had created him to be.

#### V. The Removal of Satan

A. God finally put Satan out of heaven. That shows how great His grace and mercy influence His actions.

B. Satan continued to use his will in five progressive stages. Whatever length of time it was, eventually God's patience was finished.

C. It was not a war of thunderbolts or hand-to-hand fighting.

D. It is valuable for us to realize that this conflict was not directly between God and the devil.

E. Satan's removal from Heaven caused him to relocate here on earth.

F. His removal from Heaven did not make his revolt against God any less; it made it more.

G. He declares his anger against God's creation because that is what replaced him as the object of divine love.

#### VI. The Restrictions on Satan

A. It is true that in heaven Satan was second only to God, but there was a great distance between number one and number two.

B. The Scriptures declare God to be sovereign and infinite, but the devil is lesser and submissive to God.

C. Satan has none of the fundamental nature of God.

D. Satan does not share any of God's moral nature.

E. Satan is not God gone bad. He is an angel gone bad.

F. The concept of Satan's equality with God comes from ancient Greek mythology, not from the Word of God.

G. Just as Satan's nature is far beneath God's, his power is amazingly inferior to the power of God.

H. Satan's ability to influence people is as controlled as is his power.

I. Satan cannot function against Christ's Church or even against individual Christians without the permission of Jesus.

## VII. The Reign of Satan

- A. Satan was thrown down from heaven "... with his angels..." (Revelation 12:9). Satan has organized and arranged his kingdom on earth the way God has His kingdom ordered in Heaven.
- B. Paul described the progressive order of God's kingdom as being fivefold—Colossians 1:16
  - All things were made through Christ and for Christ.
  - all powers
  - all authorities
  - all lords
  - all rulers
- C. Paul also spoke of four levels being beneath the devil—Ephesians 6:12
  - People on the earth
  - the rulers
  - the authorities
  - the powers of this world's darkness
  - the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world.
- D. Satan operates much like the head of a world-wide corporation.
- E. Not only does Satan work through his angels (demons), he has an amazingly strong influence on world rulers to convince them to do what he wants.
- F. Satan may have organized his earthy kingdom following the pattern of God's kingdom in heaven, but it is a copy in miniature.

## VIII. The Relationship of Satan to Jesus

- A. Although Satan was number two to God in heaven, Jesus was always part of the Godhead – equal to the Father.
- B. Look at some of the contrasts and comparisons the Bible makes between these two.
- C. Jesus is always superior, and He successfully undoes whatever Satan has done.

## IX. The Ruin of Satan

- A. The ultimate defeat of Satan was at Calvary.
- B. When Jesus cried from the cross "It is finished" (John 19:30), Satan's rebellion against God was over.
- C. When Jesus came forth from the grave, even Satan's demons knew that it was over.
- D. Jesus enlarged the ministry He had demonstrated while He was on earth, and this ministry has been destructive to both the satanic and demonic kingdoms.
- E. Jesus really defeated the works of the devil
  - 1. Jesus offers true happiness to chase away the sorrow sin brings.
  - 2. Jesus gave faith to replace doubt
  - 3. Jesus gave divine health to undo the sickness demons brought

4. It is not a surprise that the Apostle John exclaimed, "My dear children, you belong to God and have defeated them; because God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world." (1 John 4:4).

F. When Christ ascended into heaven, He paused at Satan's headquarters to strip him of all rank, position, authority, and power.

**Colossians 2:15** God stripped the spiritual rulers and powers of their authority. With the cross, he won the victory and showed the world that they were powerless.

X. The Decrease of Satan

A. We cast out demons in the name of Jesus.

B. Ever since Calvary, God gave Christians authority over the working force of the satanic realm.

C. Instead of watching people flee from his armies, Satan now is forced to watch as his demon forces flee from the presence of those who submit their lives to God.

D. To some it appears that it is "business as usual" for Satan, but this is not the truth.

E. God has given a command that Christians can fight back against Satan's forces.

F. It must be frustrating to Satan and his followers to know that no matter how thoroughly they plan, how completely they prepare, or how sacrificially they battle, they are predestined to lose.

XI. The Restriction of Satan

A. Since Satan signed the surrender at Calvary, he knows that his worst is yet to come.

B. Satan's fall started when he was cast out of heaven, continued when he was repositioned at Calvary, and will continue through the thousand-year period we call the Millennium.

C. Revelation 20:3 says that Satan must be loosed from the bottomless pit for a short time.

D. Satan will be thrown into a lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

E. We look forward to the final removal of Satan.

F. By faith, we can now live in this promised victory

G. By faith, we can apply the victory Christ made at Calvary.