

Satan and the Saint (Spiritual Warfare)

Job 2:1-2:13

Introduction:

The Christian is not only a Saint, but also a:

- ❑ Son (child)
- ❑ Servant
- ❑ Steward
- ❑ Soldier

! All Christians are involved in a battle, whether they recognize it or not.

! Reality does not depend on my recognition or vote of confidence for it to remain so. Wisdom necessitates that I recognize it and adjust accordingly.

! "Life is an unending struggle varying in intensity from time to time, but extending from the cradle to the grave." (Ray Steadman)

! The Christian life is a battlefield not a playfield. At a playfield being a spectator is an option but this is not a luxury afforded us in a battlefield. Your very survival is depends on active involvement.

! The Devil is the father of extremes. He will keep us as **SCEPTICS** or make us slaves of **SUPERSTITION**.

! One of the most difficult things in life is to maintain balance cf. Sovereignty, Christology, Word of God, Faith/works etc.

! Many of us are ignorant of the Devil and his schemes cf. 2Cor 2:11.

Three Approaches to the Teachings about the Devil:

1. Embarrassed by the belief that there is a personal Devil – Deny his existence
2. Enamoured by who he is what he does – Find him under every bush and chase him around
3. Educated/enlightened – Know who he is and who we are in Christ

Questions about Satan that we need to answer - at least partially:

1. Who Satan really is?
2. How far can Satan really go?
3. Who is Satan's #1 target?
4. When is Satan's most active?
5. How and when does he attack?
6. What do I do when he attacks?
7. Where is the battle waged?

Exposition:

I. The Saint

Job the Patriarch

A. God's special Servant (Vertical & Internal)

1. Personal/individual

B. Uz's most influential Citizen (Horizontal)

1. Economical/society

C. The world's best Dad (Reciprocal)

1. Family/home

He was a success personally, economically, socially, spiritually and as far as his family was concerned.

II. Satan

A. He is Accountable to God

1. A creature --with a personality

- a. Mind (2 Cor 11:3)
- b. Emotions (Rev 12:17)
- c. Will (2 Tim 2:26)
- d. Self-conscious
(Isa 14:12-15 cf. Ezek 28:12f)
- 2. A free moral agent (Matt 25:41; Jn 16:11)
- 3. One who is responsible to God
- 4. One who is included in God's eternal plan

B. He has Access to Heaven (and our Hearts)

- (His old home Jn 13:27; Matt 12:43-45)
- 1. Not omnipresent - but presence felt everywhere
 - 2. Not omniscient (1 Cor 2:8)
 - 3. He an incessant worker -- a roaring lion I Pet 5:8
 - 4. He has access to our hearts -- goes as far as we let him
 - 5. He is a "wounded lion" who became a "man-eater".
 - 6. God will let him go as far as He determines.
 - a. When things go wrong look at:
 - (1) Self
 - (2) God
 - (3) Situation

C. He is the Accuser of the Brethren (Zach 3:1; Rev 12:10)

(*Devil = 35x = Slanderer*)

- 1. Before God
- 2. In our consciences
- 3. In the face of others

Our sins are imperfections are ever before us, but Christ is our Atoning Sacrifice and Advocate. Two approaches of the Enemy:

- a. Assassinates:
 - (1) Character (being)
 - (2) Personality (worth)
 - (3) Reputation (criticize)
- b. Attributes motives (judge)

D. The Adversary of God and the Saints

(*Adversary*)

- 1. The enemy of all that is good and God's
- 2. He is called the *Destroyer* (Rev 9:11) and the *Deceiver* (Rev 12:9:20:3)
 - a. In Church Age:
 - (1) False doctrines
 - (2) False religion
 - b. In the Tribulation with Saints:
 - (1) Persecution
 - (2) False prophets
 - c. In Millennium with Christ:

Activities via:

- (1) Demonization
- (2) Persecution
- (3) Falsification

- ! Calls God a liar (Gen 3:1-5)
- ! Call believers no good (I John 3:12)

E. His Activities are limited by God (Jn 20:11; I Cor 10:13)

- ! *God sets the limit of the tide (cf. Job 38:11)*
- ! *God is too wise to make a mistake and too good to do wrong.*
 1. Satan is not sovereign
 2. Satan is a servant cf. Paul, Job, Peter
 3. God always has our best interest & welfare in mind
 4. God is always in control (Rom 8:28)

Conclusion:

1. *Keep your eyes on God cf. Peter*
2. *Remain faithful to Him (cf. Job 13:15)*
3. *Resist the Devil and he will flee from you cf. Jesus (Matt 4 cf. Job 2:10; James 4:7)*
4. *Maintain a spirit of thanksgiving and worship (Job 1:21)*
5. *Be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:8)*
6. *Be strong in the Lord (Eph 6:10f)*
7. *Pray, Fast, read the Scriptures, Worship, Witness, Fellowship*

Additional Notes:

When something happens it is useless unless it is made known.

1. Good things have their limits
2. Bad things have their purposes.

What do you do when things do not go your way, or not turn out in your favour?

How you handle life's trials will depend how you handle life's triumphs.

Acknowledging God's sovereignty in calamity and tragedy is the road to tranquillity.

Humility, not despair, is the proper attitude when the bottom drops out of our world.

We sin by our:

- Words
- Actions
- Attitude

Good = God's provisions = excellent

Evil = God's teacher = effective

Life is a classroom and we often learn some of life's most valuable lessons from the negative experiences than the positive ones.

- Grief and worship are not mutually exclusive.
 - Loss of things and relationships are not = to the loss of faith.
 - A beautiful picture of the submission to God's will.
 - The things he lost were at the fringes of his life; the centre was intact.
- The Son of God will not always calm the storms of life, but He is always there with us and for us.
- God not always a Giver but always a lover.

Three Views of Suffering:

1. Punishment
2. Chastisement
3. Refinement

Job 2:10, is the key verse to understanding the book of Job.

Job's Friends:

Eliphaz = Empiricist
Bildad = A Traditionalist
Zophar = A Naturalist.

Note the rituals and traditions in Job.

- ! Good intentions are not always good enough.
- ! Wrong presuppositions and methodology but right motives.
- ! Job's friends are not always given the credit they deserve.
- ! They were friends, but misguided, mistaken and misinformed.

Three commendable qualities:

1. They came from far when close ones defected.
2. They pitied Job - profound anguish at his misery.
3. The stick with him to the end although they “licked” him.

The most eloquent moments were their moments of silence.

Their presence was more comforting than their pious platitudes and philosophies cf. 16:2-3.

In Job we have warning and words of wisdom for comforters and counsellors.

Cf. Queen Victoria visited a mother who lost her baby. She went there and “just” sat there and held her hands. Her presence brought the most comfort, not her pious platitudes. A great lesson here.