

I. February 12, 2023 Against the Darkness: How the Mighty Have Fallen Sermon Questions

1. TRUE OR FALSE According to recent research in a survey of 1800 Christians, the majority of Christians Believe that the devil is merely a symbol and is not real.
2. What is the first verse in the Bible where we encounter the devil? _____
3. What are three names that the devil is referred to in the Bible:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. In the book of Luke, where does Jesus encounter the devil first and what did he say to the devil?

5. Write out three of the five schemes of the devil that Pastor Winans detailed in his sermon:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. Match the scheme of the devil below with the correct scripture passage from Pastor Winans sermon:

Scheme	Passages	Correct Passage
Deception	1 Thes 3:5	
Accusation	2 Tim 2:24-26	
Tempter	Rev 2:10	
Persecution	Rev 12:10	
Enslavement	Rev 12:9	

7. We cannot face the devil in our own _____; the devil is _____ than us.
8. In _____ we have the power to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Red Section:

1. True, Recent Barna survey research showed that a majority (59%) of Christians (out of a survey of 1800 respondents) believed that Satan is not real and that Satan is merely a symbol.
2. Genesis 3:1 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made."
3. Satan, serpent, O Day Star, Belial, Beelzebub
4. Luke 4:1-13 There are several verses where the devil tests Jesus, eg. 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"
5. Deception, accusation, temptation, persecution, enslavement

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Accusation	2 Tim 2:24-26	Rev 12:10
Tempter	Rev 2:10	1 Thess 3:5
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- 6.
7. Strength, stronger
8. Christ

II. February 12, 2023 Against the Darkness: How the Mighty Have Fallen Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the reasons we should believe that the devil is a real person?

2. Look at how the name Belial (a name for the devil) is used in 2 Corinthians 6:15, 2 Chronicles 13:7, 1 Samuel 25:17, 2 Samuel 16:7, and Judges 19:22. What meaning does the name Belial carry with it?

3. Revelation 12:9 reveals a scheme that the devil uses. What is it? What effect does it have?

4. Revelation 12:10 describes another scheme that the devil uses. What is it? What effect does it have?

5. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 shows us another scheme. What is it? What effect does it have?

6. Revelation 2:10 highlights another scheme of our enemy. What is it? What effect does it have?

7. Finally, Pastor Winans pointed to 2 Timothy 2:24-26 to highlight another scheme of Satan. What is it and what response should we have toward it?

Red Section:

1.

- Scripture always treats him as a personal being - never some impersonal force, or mere symbol of evil.
- In His dialogue with Satan, Jesus treated him as someone who was a real person. We also find the Devil in conversation with the Lord in the Book of Job.
- Personal pronouns such as "he," "you," and "himself," are attributed to the Devil.
- He has the characteristics of one who has personality.
- He has also demonstrated personal actions.
- The existence and the personality of the Devil is tied to the acceptance of the Scripture as God's revelation to humanity – The Bible itself treats Satan as being real.

We should believe that Satan is a real being that exists. There is no evidence whatsoever that we should understand him as some sort of illusion or symbol of evil.

2. In the sermon Pastor Winans says it is associated with darkness, as a contrast to the light of God. People that follow Belial are called “vain.” They were part of the rebellion against Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. They are bloody, evil people. In Judges 19:22 they were part of the crowd who beat on the door, demanding that the master of the house release his guest in order that they might “know him.” Vines says of Belial: “Its original meaning was either "worthlessness" or "hopeless ruin." It also had the meanings of "extreme wickedness and destruction," the latter indicating the destiny of the former. In the period between the OT and the NT it came to be a proper name for Satan. There may be an indication of this in Nahum 1:15, where the word translated "the wicked one" is Belial.

3. Revelation 12:9 calls the devil a deceiver. He is a liar. He opposes God and desires that people suffer the same fate as He will suffer. He wants people to not believe in the truth, but to believe what is not true. 2 Corinthians 11:14 warns us that the devil disguises himself as an angel of light – he is behind many false religions and ideas.

4. Revelation 12:10 says the devil accuses God’s children. God’s people should remember that our sinfulness is clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Our sins are forgiven. Our future is secured as children of God. We are promised new natures that will never sin.

5. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 reveals the devil is “the tempter.” Pastor Winans told us to follow Christ’s example, to use the sword of the Word of God to ward off the temptations that Satan sends our way. We should always be on guard against this common scheme.

6. Revelation 2:10 warns us that our enemy is a persecutor. He oppresses God’s children with the hope that we will turn away from following Christ. We need to use the “shield of faith” to stay true, to keep our allegiance to our Savior. History is full of examples of the persecution of God’s people. Today, we have many instances of

false religions and hostile governments actively persecuting God's people. God has promised that those who stand fast will receive a crown of life.

7. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 says (verse 26) that a snare of the devil results in being a slave to sin, a condition of "being captured by him to do his will." We should put on the shoes of the "gospel of peace" – the gospel is God's way of deliverance from this enslavement. When we are kind and gentle with unbelievers, the result may be that "God may perhaps grant them repentance." This is God's way and is useful for interaction with unbelieving family and friends.

III. February 12, 2023 Against the Darkness: How the Mighty Have Fallen Sermon Outline **Pastor Chris Winans**

Ephesians 6 says we as disciples of Jesus Christ are in the midst of a spiritual battle and that we must be prepared for the battle that we may stand in the evil day. Paul exhorts us to be strong in the Lord, in the power of his might and to be adorned with the armor of God. Today we focus on the second half of Eph 6:11 - the schemes of the devil.

Eph 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Today we look at the identity and the schemes of the devil. In the coming weeks we will be looking deeper into the schemes of the devil and how we must put on the armor of God to resist these schemes.

Who is the Devil?

The devil is real! Recent Barna survey research showed that a majority (59%) of Christians (out of a survey of 1800 respondents) believed that Satan is not real and that Satan is merely a symbol. 37% of the 1800 indicated that they believed Satan was real.

Charles Baudelaire- "The Devil's first trick is to convince us that he doesn't exist."

Gen 3:1-2 The fall: "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made." The devil through his craftiness was able to introduce sin to Adam and Eve. Other scripture reveals that this serpent is none other than the devil himself:

- Rev 20:1-2 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven... And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Other OT scripture reveals the identity of Satan: we will look at the books of Isaiah and Ezekiel. Isaiah addresses Babylon and Ezekiel addresses the king of Tyre. In these accounts of Babylon and Tyre it is clear that the prophets are addressing a deeper and broader spiritual evil that is at work by Satan. This spiritual evil is at work through human agents to act against God and his world (Eph 6:12).

- Isa 14:12-15 (addressing Babylon) How you are fallen from heaven , O Day Star, son of the dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.
 - “O Day Star” refers to Lucifer
 - Satan refers to himself repeatedly in these verses: “I” repeated 5 times, “my”, “myself” = Pride, Satan was filled with pride, corrupted and cast down
- Ezekiel 28:12-17 (addressing the King of Tyre) You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you... you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.
 - Cherub- Gen 3 – guardians set in the garden of Eden to prevent Adam and Eve from coming back into the garden after their banishment. The cherubs had flaming swords.
 - Cherubs are guardians of God’s presence
 - Ezek 1 Cherubim are present in a vision of God’s throne. The Cherubim are around God’s throne, guarding God’s presence in the temple.
 - The Book of Revelation- Apostle John sees a vision of the cherubim around the Lord’s throne
 - Satan was a cherub
 - (Note) Isa 6 – There is a vision of seraphim. The Hebrew word for seraph is snake.
 - Satan goes by many names in scripture- Satan, devil, Belial, Beelzebub (in Matthew)
 - The War Scroll 1 QM XIII, 10-12 You yourself made **Belial** for the pit, and angel of malevolence, his dominion is in darkness and his counsel is to condemn and convict. All the spirits of his lot—the angels of destruction—walk in accord with the rule of darkness, for it is their only desire.
 - The name Belial for Satan is found in 2 Cor 6:15-16- What fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with **Belial**? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?
- Satan in the NT: Luke 4:1-2 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.
 - Jesus confronts Satan in the wilderness in a time of lack where Adam confronted him in plenty in the garden of Eden. Adam failed but Jesus prevailed over Satan.

Satan, being fallen from light to darkness, from felicity to misery, from heaven to hell, from angel to devil, is so full of malice and envy that he will leave no means unattempted, whereby he may make all others eternally miserable with himself; he being shut out of heaven...makes use of all his power and skills to bring all the sons of men into the same condition and condemnation with himself. Thomas Brooks - Precious Reminders

What Are His Schemes?

We will review five schemes as an overview and then come back to them in future weeks:

1. Deception- the devil is a deceiver, a liar; Rev 12:9 “the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world”. We need to be adorned with the belt of truth to battle the lies and deception of the evil one.
2. Accusation- the accuser, Rev 12:10 “for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.” Therefore, to stand firm we must be adorned with the breastplate of righteousness. Can Satan make an accusation against Christ? No! Can Satan make an accusation against us in ourselves? Yes! So we must stand in the righteousness of Jesus Christ to withstand the schemes of the devil.
3. Tempter- 1 Thess 3:5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

Satan tempts us with the desires of the world if... we worship him. We must hold the sword of the Spirit like Jesus did in the wilderness, which is the Word of God.

4. Persecution- an oppressor, a snake, a lion. Rev 2:10 “Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested...Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Be adored with the shield of faith- our allegiance to the Lord will allow us to extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one.
5. Enslavement- He seeks to put you under his rule, 2 Tim 2:24-26 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. We must be adorned with the shoes of Gospel of peace: the Gospel is the announcement of the victory of Jesus and set us free. Apart from the Gospel we are enslaved to the god of this world, the devil.

We are to stand in the finished work of Jesus Christ. 1 John 3:8- The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus has vanquished the enemy, He has crushed the head of the serpent. His heel has been bruised.

We **cannot** face the devil in our own strength; the devil is stronger than us.

In Christ we have the power to stand against the schemes of the devil. In Christ we have no reason to fear for the devil has been defeated by the death and resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ!

From the Heidelberg Catechism Question 1:

What is your only comfort in life and death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, **and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil**. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.