

LIVING WATERS NEWSLETTER

HARRY BOWERS, EDITOR

7844 GRIMSBY CIRCLE, HARRISBURG, N.C. 28075

AUGUST 2008

THE POWER OF THE EVIL ONE

I John 5:19 states that we know the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. Do we, the twenty-first century church, really know this? Anton LaVey, the so-called priest of Satan, states in *The Satanic Bible*: "Satanism is a religion of the flesh, the mundane, the carnal, all of which are ruled by Satan." Jesus speaks of Satan as being "the prince of this world". This does not mean that Satan rules the world to the exclusion of God as the Creator and Sustainer of the world. Greg Bahnsen in *The Person, Work, and Present Status of Satan* states: "It is quite common for the term 'world' to be used not in a geographic sense, but in an ethical sense; denoting the immoral realm of disobedience rather than an all-inclusive scope of creation. The 'world' represents the life of man apart from God and bound to sinful impulses. Thus, when scripture writers speak of 'the world' they often mean the world as it is ethically separated from God." Jesus refers to Satan as "the prince of this world" three times (John 12:31, 14:30; 16:11). Jesus uses the same word translated "prince" in referring to the rulers of the Gentiles (Mt. 20:25) and the same word is used in Acts 4:26 to refer to "the rulers" who were gathered together against the Lord and His Christ, (a quotation from Psalm 2:2). Paul calls Satan "the prince of the powers of the air" (Eph. 2:2) and "the god of this age" (II Cor. 4:4). How did Satan, the prince of the powers of the air, come to be the ruler of this age and bring the world under his power? In Luke 4:5-7 when Satan was tempting Jesus he offered to give him all the "power" and "glory" of the "kingdoms of the world" if Jesus would worship him. It was no idle boast when Satan said "I will give you all this domain (power) and its glory; for it has been handed (betrayed) over to me, and I will give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if you worship before me, it shall all be yours". It was not God that handed over this power to Satan, but man. When Adam obeyed Satan he delivered to him the power that God had given to man. Some commentators have said that since Satan is a liar he is here lying and did not have this power to offer Christ all these kingdoms. But if this were true then it would not have been a temptation to Jesus. Also in view of the fact that the world was in the bondage it was in is indicative of the rule of the evil one. Not only is the Satanic spiritual kingdom evil but the system itself which has been fostered upon mankind is evil, making the whole world corrupt and evil. Unbelievers of course would deny this and many Christians refuse to realize it. The Apostle Paul declares in speaking of a world without Christ, that "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10) and John exhorts us to "love not the world, nor the things in the world, for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away and its lusts" (I John 2:15-17). The great mystery of our day is why the church tries so hard to please the world and use its methods as a pattern for its programs.

Satan is not omnipresent and cannot be everywhere present at the same time. Therefore he operates through his angels called "demons" (devils KJV) or "evil spirits". These are organized in a certain hierarchy under Satan as their king. This is seen in Ephesians 6:12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,

but against the rulers, against powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies." In Revelation 9:11 is the description of the locust, a symbol for demons: "They have a king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon (Destruction), and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon" (Destroyer). By Satan being called "the prince of the powers of the air" (Eph. 2:2) and "king" (Rev. 9:11) indicates there are numerous unseen evil spiritual powers controlled by Satan and are active in the affairs of men. These unseen powers are enemies of God and adversaries of the church.

The New Testament term most applied to demons is "unclean spirits" meaning "impure" used at least 19 times in the gospels. Concerning the fact that they are "unclean spirits" and active in the world C. Fred Dickason, Jr. in his book *Studies in the Biblical Doctrine of Angels* states: "Demons are termed 'unclean spirits' because they are morally and spiritually unclean. They are unclean in their personality because of the moral degradation and wickedness that came through their fall. They are unclean in their doctrine, promoting Satan's system of the lie by influencing false teachers (I Tim. 4:1-3). They are unclean in conduct, promoting evil for evil's sake (Luke 8:27; Mark 9:22; Matt. 12:45). They have superhuman intelligence and strength, often manifested in viciousness. They have power over man's body to cause dumbness (Mt. 9:32, 33), blindness (Mt. 12:22), insanity (Luke 8:26-36), suicidal mania (Mark 9:22), personal injuries (Mark 9:18), and various physical defects" (Luke 13:11-17).

They are also called Satan's angels (Matt. 25:41, Rev. 12:7, 9) and simply "angels" (II Pet. 2:4, Jude 6). The conclusion, then, is that demons are sinful angels. The Scriptures tell us very little about the sin and fall of Satan and his angels, but there are prophecies and symbols that might give us some clues. Many commentators cite Isaiah 14:12-20 and Ezekiel 28:12-19 as referring to Satan's history and fall. Isaiah's words are said to be a "taunt against the king of Babylon" and Ezekiel's are said to be a "lamentation over the king of Tyre". However, there are many prophecies that have a double meaning: a message for the day it was uttered and also a prophetic meaning for the future. (A good example of this is Isaiah 7:14-16; Mt. 1:22, and Psalm 22). We can add to this the symbolic picture of the casting down of Satan and his angels as recorded in Revelation 12 and come to a logical conclusion that Satan and his minions are fallen angels.

The Scripture reveal two general classes of demons, or fallen angels: those that are bound and those that are free. From the above quote by Dickason we can readily see the activity of those that are free and active in human affairs. But what about those that are bound or imprisoned? The two passages that deal with them are II Peter 2:4: "For God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (*tartarus*, the only place the word is found in Scripture) and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment" and Jude 6, 7: "And angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day. Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross

immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.” It seems to me that these angels that sinned can be identified as “the sons of God” in Genesis 6:1-4. In the Old Testament the term “sons of God” is restricted to angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). A. C. Gaebelein in *The Annotated Bible* says: “The designation is never applied in the Old Testament to believers, this is distinctly a New Testament revelation.” Jude describes them as “angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper abode.” William Barclay, the noted Scottish expositor, in his *Daily Study Bible Series* declares: that these angels “left their own rank and aimed at a rank and at an office which was not for them. They left the heavenly places and came to earth to live with the daughters of men. Even although they were angels, even although heaven was their dwelling place, even although they had been in the nearer presence of God, they nonetheless sinned, and for their sin are reserved for judgment.” How could angels, as spiritual beings, take wives of the daughters of men? Does not Jesus say that the angels of God in heaven neither marry nor are given in marriage? (Matt. 22:30; Mark 12:25; Luke 20:35-36). Note Jesus is speaking of “angels in heaven” who are deathless and have no need to perpetuate their species. There is no marriage among angels as they are always spoken of in the masculine gender. When angels appear on earth they appear as men. These “kept not their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode.” Jude compares their sin to that of Sodom and Gomorrah: “Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they *in the same way* as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh.” The result of this unholy alliance was “the Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown” (Gen. 6:4). The opposing view of this is that the “sons of God” are simply godly Sethites, and the “daughters of men” were ungodly Cainites who inter-married. My question is: were there no “daughters of God” among the Sethites, and were there no “sons of men” among the Cainites? Merrill F. Unger in *Biblical Demonology* states: “The general interpretation that refers ‘sons of God’ to pious Sethites, and the ‘daughters of men’ to ungodly Cainites, while naïve and perfectly orthodox in that it enunciates a simple spiritual principle and assuredly avoids certain obvious difficulties to which a more virile exposition exposes itself, yet is found to be manifestly weak and unconvincing in satisfying the evident breadth and scope of the passage.” The logical conclusion is that the angels that sinned, spoken of by Peter and Jude, are described in Genesis 6, all other fallen angels are the demons loose upon the earth and are under the kingship of Satan.

Both angels and demons are involved in the governments of the world. God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe and is in control of everything that happens on earth. He has given Christ all authority and he is ruling “in the midst of his enemies” He is at God’s right hand until He makes all his “enemies that footstool for his feet” (Psalm 110:1, 2). Yet he uses both angels and demons to carry out his plan and government. Psalm 103:20 states: “Bless the Lord, you His angels, mighty in strength, who perform His word, obeying the voice of His word.” God used evil angels to bring the plagues upon Egypt. Psalm 78:49: “He sent upon them his burning anger; fury and indignation and trouble, a band of destroying angels.” (the marginal note says

“deputation of angels of evil”). I Kings 22:19-23 the Lord sends a deceiving spirit to entice Ahab. The deceiving spirit was “in the mouth of all his (Ahab’s) prophets. A demon called “the prince of the kingdom of Persia” hindered for three weeks Daniel’s prayer from being answered by withstanding the angel sent to Daniel, until Michael, one of the chief princes, (the archangel, Jude 8) came to help (Daniel 10:10-13). The angel then told Daniel “I shall now return to fight against the Prince (Satanic angel) of Persia; so I am going forth and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come” (Dan 10:20). These “princes” were not the earthly rulers of Persia and Greece, but rather the demonic angels directing them. Jesus recognized the evil powers behind the governing authorities when he said “now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.” (John 12:31) and “the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing on me” (John 14:30).

Demons are just as active in the realm of religion. Leviticus 17 describes the sin of the people who were going through outward forms of religion in offering their sacrifices but verse 7 states: “they shall no longer sacrifice their sacrifices to demons” and Deuteronomy 32:17 says “they sacrificed to demons who were not God, to gods they have not known, new gods who came lately.” In his warning the church against idolatry the Apostle Paul admonishes them to “Look at the nation of Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? The things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons” (I Cor. 10:18-20). He writes to Timothy: “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons” (I Tim. 4:1). Dwight Pentecost in *Your Adversary The Devil* writes: “Behind every idol that has ever been erected to become a center of worship was a demon, and demons propagate all the false religions and forms of idolatry that ever have or ever will exist. This is part of Satan’s deception. He works in the religious realm to prevent men from coming under the authority of God that they might continue under the authority of Satan.”

Not only are Satan and his angels influencing the world in general, that is: politics, religion, social and economic problems, amusement and entertainment etc. but directly influences people through the occult, witchcraft, sorcery, spiritism, games, fortune telling, horoscopes, and new ageism to mention a few. This may result in demons influencing the lifestyle of people and outright demon possession. Satan appears not with horns and tail, but as “angel of light.” No wonder John said “try the spirits.”

A little known fact concerning the purpose of the church is stated by Paul in Ephesians 3:10: that is “that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies.” The modern church seems to be oblivious to these evil powers that are actively engaged to see that the church is unaware of any responsibility to make known the manifold wisdom of God, much less to become active in a spiritual warfare to defeat them. As Floyd Clark asks in his *Clark Epistle # 56*: “If we are Christians, why are we so weak?” He continues: “In the USA, with over 100 million professed Christians, how is it that Satan has been able to enslave millions, young and old, to so fear him that Satan can now boast that he is the master of this nation, and he can make this nation do anything he wishes?”