

## Satan Stood Up Against Israel

*The Assault of the Devil Upon the Saints*

1 Chronicles 21:1-8; Ephesians 6:10-18

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### I. Destroying the Works of the Devil

John tells us, *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil”* (1 Jn 3:8). Similarly, Paul writes that Jesus died on the cross in order *“that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”* (Heb 2:14-15). Jesus came to conquer the \_\_\_\_\_.

Thus, immediately after Jesus was baptized and anointed as God’s Messiah, the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness where He was *“tempted for forty days by the devil”* (Lk 4:1). And unlike our father Adam who succumbed to the devil’s temptations, Jesus resisted him and proved victorious (Lk 4:2ff). So the devil left Jesus for a time and, thereafter, Jesus clashed repeatedly with demonic forces (Lk 4:31ff, 41; 6:18; 8:2, 26ff; 9:1-6, 37ff; 10:17-20; 11:14-26; 13:10-17). Sensing the danger to his kingdom, *“Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve”* (Lk 22:3). Judas betrayed Jesus to the chief priests who arrested Jesus. And Jesus declared, *“this is your hour, and the power of darkness”* (Lk 22:53). The *“rulers of this age”* orchestrated a sham trial and *“crucified the Lord of glory”* (1 Cor 2:8). Satan believed he had triumphed.

But Jesus rose from the dead as planned (Lk 24:46-47). Thus, the very cross of Jesus’ shame became the instrument of the devil’s decisive defeat. *“Having disarmed principalities and powers, [God] made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in [the cross]”* (Col 2:15). Now Satan *has been cast out* and Jesus is *drawing all peoples to Himself* (Jn 12:31-33). Satan has been bound in chains *“so that he should deceive the nations no more,”* (Rev 20:3). The Gospel is going forth to the ends of the earth. Yet Satan, whose authority has been broken, still *“prowls about as a roaring \_\_\_\_\_ seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Pet 5:8). He defends his territory and makes war on the saints. But Christ is rescuing sinners from Satan’s grasp through the Gospel (Acts 26:18) and empowering His saints to resist the devil and overcome him (James 4:7; 1 Jn 2:13, 14).

### II. Satan Stood Up Against Israel

#### A. Satan hates God and hates God’s image bearers

Satan opposes and works against God’s good purposes for the world:

- Satan – adversary (cf. 1 Chr 21:1ff; Job 1-2; Zech 3:1ff; Mk 4:15; )
- Devil – slanderer/accuser (cf. Rev 12:9,10)
- Abaddon/Apollyon – destruction, the destroyer (cf. Rev 9:11)
- Tempter (cf. Mt 4:3; 1 Cor 7:5; 1 Thes 3:5)
- Serpent/Dragon (cf. Gen 3:1ff; 2 Cor 11:3; Rev 12:9; 20:2)
- Father of lies & murderer (cf. Jn 8:44; 2 Cor 11:13-15)
- Wicked (Evil) One (cf. 1 Jn 2:13-14; 5:18-19)
- Prince of the power of the air (cf. Eph 2:2)
- Lucifer – morning star (cf. Is 14:12ff)
- Beelzebul – Master of the (heavenly) dwelling (cf. Mk 3:22)
- God of this age (cf. 2 Cor 4:4)
- Ruler of this world (cf. Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 cp. 2 Tim 2:24-26)

Satan despises all men. Why? Because all men bear the image of God. Thus, *even those human beings who serve Satan remind him of God*. The most degenerate human being, enslaved to Satan, still bears God's image. And God is using His people to rescue unbelievers from their bondage to Satan:

*<sup>24</sup>And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup>in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, <sup>26</sup>and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. (2 Tim 2:24-26 cf. Acts 26:18)*

Satan is hostile to God's redemptive purposes in Christ. He wants to keep us enslaved, that we might be cast with him into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10, 14-15).

#### B. Satan tempts people to sin, especially their leaders

How does Satan keep unbelievers enslaved? And how does he tempt even believers to sin? Peter exhorts us, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour"* (1 Pet 5:8). Similarly, Paul warned the Corinthians *"lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his schemes"* (2 Cor 2:11). So what are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the devil?

*<sup>1</sup>Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup>speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, <sup>3</sup>forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup>For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; <sup>5</sup>for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. (1 Tim 4:1-5)*

### III. Resist the Devil (Jas 4:7; 1 Pet 5:8-9 cp. Eph 6:10-18)

*<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*<sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup>praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints... (Eph 6:10-18)*

#### A. Be Strong in the Lord (10-12 cp. Jas 4:7; 1 Pet 5:9)

#### B. Take up the whole armor of God (13-18 cp. 2 Cor 10:3-6)

1. Gird your waste with truth... (Pr 4:24; 23:23; Eph 4:15,25)
2. Put on the breastplate of righteousness... (1 Jn 3:7-10)
3. Shod your feet with the gospel of peace...
4. Take up the shield of faith...
5. Take the helmet of salvation...
6. Take the sword of Spirit... (Heb 4:12)
7. Praying in the Spirit...