

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL

THE MESSAGE

Digging Deeper Series - Chapter Three

THE CELESTIAL BEGINNING

Lets make our way through the scriptures which talk about spiritual forces beyond us!

A. CAN WE BELIEVE IN A UNSEEN SPIRITUAL WORLD

Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Q1: How does this verse show who are primary battle is against?

Q2: What gives us a clue that these forces are unseen and powerful?

QUESTIONS

When we talk about evil, the Devil or Satan why does it seems rather fictitious?

We believe in a unseen world, a world in which we accept naturally! Some of these element's in our world are radio waves, TV signals, heat , wind they are unseen yet we believe them to be true. Why?

As we will see the spiritual forces operate behind the scenes, what would bring reality as to there existence?

When you see evil operate on the earth, what is rationale they have for their actions?

B. THE ROOT OF EVIL - THE BEGINNING

The first created beings were the angelic host. This passage pictures Gods description through the prophet of the fall of Lucifer (Satan) and why he has fallen.

Isaiah 14:12-20 (NASB)

¹² "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! ¹³ "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵ "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. ¹⁶ "Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, *saying*, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to *go home*?' ¹⁸ "All the kings of the nations lie in glory, Each in his own tomb. ¹⁹ "But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse. ²⁰ "You will not be united with them in burial, Because you have ruined your country, You have slain your people. May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.

Q1: Satan has fallen from heaven, so where did he fall to?

Q2: Why was Satan cut down to the earth what was his original sin?

Q3: List all his influence and impact on the Earth?

Q4: After his influence on earth what will happen to him?

This was the beginning of evil and the birth of sin, and it came from a created free willed being in which God had made. His (Satan's) desire was to be God, a created being wanting to be the God of his creator. Desiring to go his own way and rule above the heavens. This was the original sin one in which God dealt with. Below you will notice the same theme in that evil forces of wickedness desire to be the God of creation and rule over Gods creation in the mystery of lawlessness. The spiritual world is but a mystery to be discovered in the reality of our own lives. Seek the knowledge of that reality.

2 Thessalonians 2:2-10 (NASB)

³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹ *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

C. MAKE UP OF THE FALLEN ANGEL

The first created beings we know of were the angelic host. This passage pictures Gods description through the prophet of the fall of Lucifer (Satan) and why he has fallen who he was and what he is like. He was the first and the origin of evil and sin in the face of God.

Ezekiel 28:12-19 (NIV2011)

¹² "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. ¹⁸ By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. ¹⁹ All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.' "

Q1: In what ways is the devil or Satan far different than what he is portrayed in our world?

Q2: List the specifics of Satan's downfall.

Q3: What will happen to Satan upon the earth and what will his end fate be?

He was the most beautiful of all creation, stunningly gloriously beautiful and his wisdom was unsurpassed. He was anointed as a covering cherub the highest of the angelic host the pinnacle of all creation. Yet as creation he turn on his creator only to feel the wrath to come.

SATAN AND HIS ANGELS

Revelation 12:3-4 (NASB)

³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. ⁴ And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

The Biblical theory is that one third of the angelic host joined Satan in his quest to become God and rule the earth. Those followers of Satan are called demons.

Matthew 9:33-34 (NASB)

³³ After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." ³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

A PICTURE OF THE BATTLE IN HEAVEN

Revelation 12:7-12 (NASB)

⁷ And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸ and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹ "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. ¹² "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time."

Q1: Is God and His angels stronger than Satan and His?

Q2: What are some of Satan's purposes on the earth list here?

Q3: How is Satan overcome by God almighty?

Q4: What specific verse states that Satan has followers?

D. THE INFLUENCE AND EFFECTS OF EVIL FORCES ON MANKIND

FROM THE VERSE ABOVE REV 12:7-12

1. Satan the Devil have come to and the human race.

John 10:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ "The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

2. Satan has come to and mankind.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NASB)

¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

3. Satan himself as an

D. THE INFLUENCE AND EFFECTS OF EVIL FORCES ON MANKIND (CONT)

James 4:6-8 (NASB)

⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

3. _____ therefore to God. _____ the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:6-9 (NASB)

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

4. Your _____ the devil _____ around like a roaring lion seeking someone to _____ .

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. ¹⁸ For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.

5. Satan will be a _____ to us in our lives .

E. WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SATANS INFLUENCE

Luke 22:31-32 (NASB)

³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat;

³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Job 1:6-12 (NASB)

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." ⁸ The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." ⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

¹⁰ "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." ¹² Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

In the midst of evil man will come to know what evil really is and be refined by it. By the reflection of evil we will see and understand the goodness and glory of God. One day we will reside in Heaven having knowledge of good and evil, basking in the presence of God.

E. THE SON OF GOD JESUS AND SATAN

Matthew 4:1-11 (NASB)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" ⁵ Then the devil *took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and *said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" ⁸ Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; ⁹ and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" ¹¹ Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

1 John 3:7-8 (NASB)

⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

John 12:31-32 (NASB)

³¹ "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world (Satan) will be cast out. ³² "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

Romans 16:20 (NASB)

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Revelation 20:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Jesus the Christ has come to destroy the works of the devil and cast him away from His presences forever!

Q1: The question is how much do you believe in the unseen spiritual world?

Q2: Will you understand the impact of evil forces in your own spiritual existence?

Q3: Why is it essential to understand the devils role in Gods eternal plan?