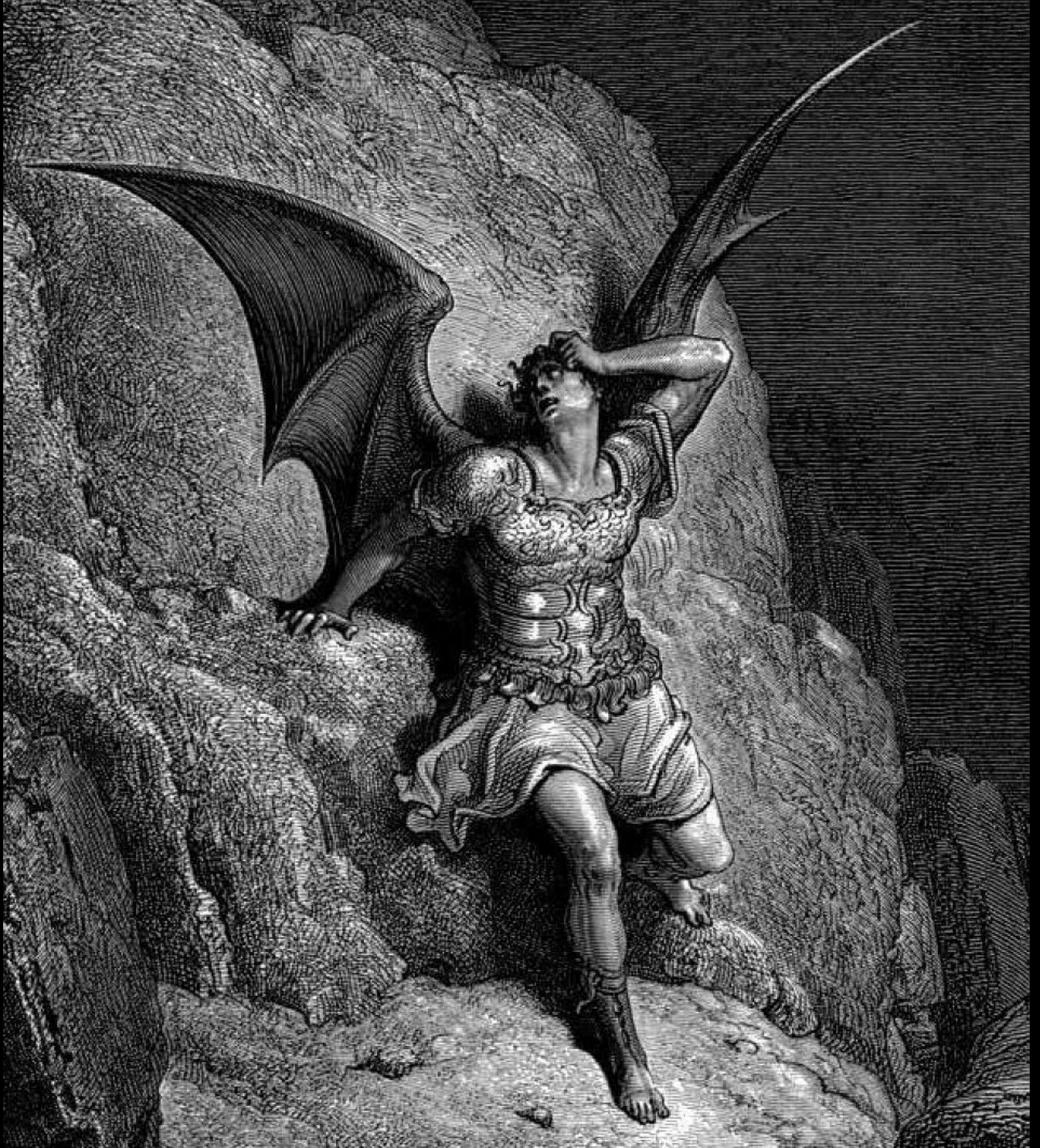


Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 58

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Paradise Lost Satan by Gustave Dore Cir 1866

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The Book of Isaiah Message Fifty-Eight

LITTLE APOCALYPSE OF ISAIAH PART X

March 22, 2020

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SATAN'S REIGN AND ITS END

Isaiah 27:1

¹In that day Jehovah with his hard and great and strong sword will punish leviathan the swift serpent, and leviathan the crooked serpent; and he will slay the monster that is in the sea (ASV, 1901).

This verse is the culmination of chapter twenty-six where the Lord described the resurrection of the Old Testament Saints as well as the Tribulation Saints just before He will set up His Messianic Kingdom. All crimes of men will be revealed and the Lord Himself will take back control of the earth. It has been the anointed Cherub who became Satan's domain for many years and now he will be judged. There's only one supreme Lord over all the world, and that's God. With the Creation of man that this whole concept of dominion was given to Adam and Eve. Man was given dominion over the earth to represent God's reign on this planet. Since Satan beguiled Eve and sin entered the world human kind became subjected to the power of Satan. That power of Satan was dealt a fatal blow by Christ in his incarnation. Satan's authority and power are limited and subordinate to the authority that is vested in Christ. People are giving more allegiance to the prince of darkness than to the Prince of Peace, but that is an act of usurpation on the part of Satan. His power is restricted, limited, and temporal. The Church is given the power to avoid Satan's grip as we are told to "*resist the Devil and he will flee*" (James 4:7). Many do not heed the commands and suffer the Devil's plan to destroy us and our testimony.

God uses an ancient but well-known mythological figure to the Hebrews, Leviathan to describe the world powers against Him led by the fallen Cherub Satan. Leviathan is presented in the Hebrew Bible as a metaphor for a powerful enemy. The ancient Hebrews attached themselves to the sinful cultures around them many times and therefore the metaphor of Leviathan for wicked rulers and their ultimate leader would be familiar to them. Is a creature with the form of a sea serpent that is referenced in Job, the Psalms, here in the book of Isaiah, and the book of Amos.

In Hebrew, words are formed from a combination, or root, mostly of three letters. These three root letters morph into many words that have a similar meaning. The Hebrew word for "*serpent*" is *nachash*. The Hebrew word for bronze is *nechoshet*. In Numbers 21:9, Moses made a bronze serpent to put an end to the snakes that were killing the children of Israel, when they spoke out against God's plan for them. The Hebrew word *nechoshet nachash* means "a bronze serpent." Jesus referred to this life saving *nechoshet nachash* in John 3:14–15, when He identified it as being Himself, the savior of the world. Also in the Hebrew, various words have multiple ties to different passages in the Bible. The word "*serpent*" is no different. Its Hebrew etymology also has the quality of being "shiny" or

“luminous.” This idea is carried out into the New Testament where Satan is cast as “an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14). These root letters for “*serpent*” also morph into a verb meaning, “*to practice divination*” or “*observe astrological signs*” (Genesis 30:27; 44:5, 15; Leviticus 19:26; Deuteronomy 18:10). This gives us further insight into the nature of Satan and the serpent. Ancient pagan Near Eastern divination frequently made use of a serpent idol.

Genesis 3:1a

¹Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. (ASV, 1901)

Genesis 3:1 says that the serpent was “*more subtle than any beast of the field.*” The Hebrew word here for “*subtle*” is *arum*, which is a word play on Genesis 2:25, where the Hebrew word *arumeem* is translated as “naked and unashamed.” We see the contrast between Adam and Eve, who are described as being very open and innocent, while the Devil is exposed as being shrewd, crafty, cunning, and sly. Satan was using deceit to obtain the authority over the earth that he lost because of his own fall from Heaven when he rebelled against God. This verse also states that God had made this creature called “*the serpent,*” thus affirming the genuineness of an actual serpent. Many who do not know the Bible, or the Lord, continue to relegate this story to mythology by saying we only need to know that “something happened” to cause sin to come into the world. Neither Jesus nor the New Testament writers took this stand (John 8:44; Romans 5:12, 16:20; 1 Corinthians 15:21; 2 Corinthians 11:3–4; I Timothy 2:14). These were actual events that occurred in time and space on this earth.

The name Leviathan in Hebrew has a root of *lvh* which means to twist, turn and distort representing the forces of chaos caused by Satan on the earth and in the Heavens. Turning then to Job chapter 41, we get a description of leviathan—a description that has generally been recognized by many Bible commentators as a crocodile. In Job 41:15–17 the word *scales* are revealed as his pride, shut up together as with a close seal.

In this text leviathan is the monster with joined scales, which are the expression of his pride by which he fell from God’s grace and cause untold many in Heaven on earth to follow him to their eternal destruction. The description closes with the revealing sentence, “*He is a king over all the children of pride!*” (Job 41:34). God reveals exactly who is Leviathan through Job. Now we can see who is being referenced in this Isaiah passage. The term is used emblematically to mean Satan, because does not mean literal crocodiles.

It is this leviathan who is behind the liberal denial of the Bible’s authority. In its developed form, liberalism simply denies the many foundation truths on which Christian faith is established. He is the progenitor of the spirit of hostility to all that is of God on the earth. He, the devil, is leviathan, the dragon or of the joined scales! Some of his strategies to destroy are when he can convince people to do the following.

- Reject supernaturalism altogether.
- Reject the authority of God’s Word.
- Giving rise to rational thought instead of revealed truth.
- Causing people to be unaware of the origin of their thoughts.
- Causing people to think that some sins are really “not so bad”.

- Corrupting doctrinal integrity of the Scriptures so some parts of Scripture are thought of as more important than others.
- Causing the belief that black magic is harmless (not sleight of hand).
- Causing a belief that paganism is harmless in its three root forms; magic, divination (seeking fortune tellers) and necromancy (seeking communication with the dead).
- Corrupting the Hebrew Mazzeroth (God's message in the star constellations of Christ and the Gospel) with astrology.
- Causing myth to come into Christianity replacing truth.
- Causing a belief that all religions are equal, whatever the doctrine.
- Causing schisms in Christian fellowship over doctrine.
- Bringing deception in world governments controlled by wicked ruler and dictators to renounce Christianity and provide a channel for the demons to have a great effect on large numbers of people.

By far the greatest field of activity for Satan and his demons is the Church because Satan can influence believers. The body of believers is charged with bringing converts into saving grace knowledge of Christ and His work. The Church is to teach the truth of the Bible. The powers of darkness are increasing in our day and age and dupe the world against the truth of the Bible and historic Christianity. Satan is dedicated to turning people from God. When men do believe the gospel, Satan exerts every effort to turn them away from God's will (Matthew 13:19). He knows that once they are saved they are beyond his power to destroy so he seeks to corrupt as Balaam taught Balak (Numbers 31:5–16; James 4: 4; Revelation 2: 14). Therefore, he determines to do as much damage as he can, seeking to ruin our Christian life and testimony for God.

Satan is unrelenting and pitiless in his hatred for God and the people of God. What makes the devil a fearful foe is the fact of his great power. This is augmented by the assistance of a vast number of fallen angels known as demons. Consequently, satanic forces constitute a mighty, evil spiritual reality to be seriously reckoned with by the entire fallen race, both redeemed and unredeemed. We must be aware of the demonic activity and what we are charged with to defeat it.

In its spiritual war, the Church must be knowledgeable about the stratagems of our enemy. In physical wars, military strategists are keenly aware of the necessity of knowing the enemy. Accordingly, they employ intricate networks of intelligence and counterintelligence. Missions involving espionage are frequently as crucial to winning a war as actual battles. Without intelligence of the enemy's strength and position, victory in any military encounter would be doubtful. Yet believers mostly display an obvious disinterest in what the Bible reveals about Satan and demons. The only sound approach is to know the enemy. Only as his wiles are revealed will the believer be able to anticipate and outmaneuver him. Satan's chief tactics are to hide his identity and his attacks. The Christian must recognize him and anticipate his moves.

Only as the believer knows the powers of darkness will he be able to win against them in his superior position and strength in Christ. The rampant demon activity of these last days (1 Timothy 4:1) means we must "Know our enemy!"

1 Timothy 4: 1

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (KJV);

Although we do not always know this enemy, one thing is sure. Satan *always* knows us! He is thoroughly acquainted with all of God's children and is quite aware of those who fall for his strategies. He also knows those who recognize and count on their position in Christ and who find and fulfill God's will for their lives. These saints are what the devil fears most, for they constitute the deadliest threat to his plans and ambitions. It is upon us that he attacks in the subtlest manner. He brings us into temptation for the activities, which we know we should not be engaged. We fail to realize or admit his involvement and think that our activities are harmless or out of the purview of anyone else including God.

Ephesians 6: 10-11

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (KJV).

Paul starts this section with two commands to make us aware of the enemy's plan of attack. The enemy wants to thwart God's plan for our families and will do whatever he can to draw us away from God. Our protection against this enemy is to avail ourselves of all available God given resources to protect ourselves against the strategy of the enemy... Satan. Christians are not to attack Satan, or advance against him; they are only to "stand" or hold the territory Christ and His body, the church, have conquered. Without God's armor, believers will be defeated by the "schemes" of the devil, which have been effective for thousands of years.

UNDERSTANDING THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Ephesians 6: 12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (KJV).

This struggle implies hand-to-hand combat. It is not a casual annoyance that is being referred to here. Paul is describing a battle that happens in the mind, for control of the mind, and gets manifested in the flesh. The Devil and his Demons want to destroy us and will take every chance we give them to do that. These are genuine powerful beings not mere fantasies. They live outside of time and space where we will be when we leave these bodies in which we temporarily reside. Once a person becomes a believer in Jesus Christ we become their enemies and they begin their attack. The two major mistakes Christians make toward this evil empire are to ignore it or to give it too much attention.

SATAN'S FINAL END

We saw his fall described in Isaiah chapter 14 and Ezekiel chapter 28. The result of Satan's pride was his leading a revolt in heaven against God. He was followed by one-third of the angelic host (Revelation 12: 3-4). In this way Halal, also known as Lucifer or day-star, son of the morning became Satan the adversary. Judgment then came upon him. Satan now has his domain in the atmospheric heavens.

Ephesians 2: 2

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience (KJV):

Satan is here described as the prince of the power of the air and existing in the heavenly places. He lives in the atmospheric heavens or in the air. He has permission to access two places, Heaven, and the earth. We see his Heavenly access in Job 1:6; 2:1. Here he is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12: 10). He also accuses the nation Israel (Zechariah 3:1). When Adam fell, Satan became the prince of the power of this world (John 12:31), the god of this age (II Corinthians 4:4) and the prince of the kingdom of this world and can offer them to whomsoever he wills, as he did with Jesus (Luke 4: 5-7).

He comes to earth in two forms. The first is as a roaring lion (I Peter 5: 8). In this way he destroys and devours. This form frequently results in physical persecution of Christians and the long campaign he has against the Jews throughout human history. The second manifestation is as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11: 14). In this form he is a master deceiver. He has instigated a counterfeit program trying to be like the Most High. His program has been successful as he deceives believers to draw them away from a carefully studying God's Word. This program of deception has been carried out against both unbelievers (Revelation 20: 3) and believers (II Corinthians 11: 3). It is crucial that a believer study the Word of God in a line-by-line, verse-by-verse basis to ascertain the genuine story that God has provided. Knowing the genuine well will enable us to see the false when it is presented.

The next domain in which he will be is yet future to us and is best described by the Revelation.

Revelation 12: 7-12;

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time (KJV).

In the middle of the Great Tribulation Satan will be cast down to the earth and confined there for the rest of the Tribulation. He will attempt to destroy the Jews once and for all. He will attempt to achieve this through the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Revelation 13).

AFTER MICHAEL'S VICTORY

Satan entering the Abyss is described in Revelation.

Revelation 20: 1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season (KJV).

Satan will be held captive during the one-thousand-year Kingdom period. During this time sin will be greatly reduced on the earth but not eliminated because of the loss of his influence on humanity. Jesus the God-Man will rule the earth for this period and mankind will not have Satan the accuser to ruin His authority over the earth.

THE END OF LEVIATHAN THE SERPENT

Revelation 20: 7-10

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever (KJV).

Satan can do no more harm when he is finally cast into a permanent punishment along with the fallen angels and unredeemed humanity. Death will finally be permanently removed (I Corinthians 15: 24-26).

NEXT MESSAGE: THE LITTLE APOCALYPSE PART XI

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