

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

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20
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SATAN: DECEIVER: RULER OF THIS WORLD

Jim Stauffer

There is much discussion about just who Satan is. Is he real? What is his origin? What power does he possess? How should we respond to him?

Our hope is to show what God has said about Satan and the power and influence he has in our lives. Is Satan a divine, eternal being who has always opposed God? It seems clear only God Himself, is eternal in nature. All other beings have been created at one time or another (**Col. 1:16**). It appears from references in Scripture Satan is an angelic being who was cast down from heaven because he rebelled against the will of God (**Rev. 12:9; Luke 10:18**).

The Biblical presentation of his being and influential efforts should by itself teach us he is real and he continues his work in the world today. He is the ruler of demons and further is the prince of this world and its ruler (**Mat. 12:24-26; John 12:31; 16:11**). Paul calls him, *the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience*. (**Eph. 2:2**)

As the ruler of this world it is obvious he has at least some power. Not being divine, however, tells us his power is subject to the Deity Who rules over him. This is the reason he is portrayed as requesting from God the power to test Job, and yet is limited in the extent of this power by God (**Job 1:12; 2:6**). The limited power Satan possesses is what has enabled him to become the *ruler of this world* or the *spirit now working in the sons of disobedience* (**John 13:31; Eph. 2:2**). He is as the Lord said, *the father of lies*, and as a result has, *blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God* (**John 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4**).

His desire then, has always been to lead men away from God. From the successful temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden up until this very day as he represents himself to be an angel of light rather than a purveyor of evil and darkness (**Gen. 3:1-6; 2 Cor. 11:3, 14,15**). While he lost the major hold he had over mankind with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (**Heb. 2:14,15**), he continues to deceive those he can in an effort to claim their souls.

It is very important we understand his methods and in conjunction with that our own weaknesses in the flesh. We must remember the instruction of Jesus concerning the heart of a man as the very seat of sin. He taught in the Sermon on the Mount hatred and lust are sinful just as surely as the murder and adultery they bring to be (**Mat. 5:21,22,27,28**). Knowing this, Satan plants the seeds of sin in the hearts of men. Each of us will find ourselves more susceptible to some evil thoughts and deeds than others. Our effort must be to prevent those temptations from conceiving and giving birth to sin which would separate us from God and bring spiritual death to our souls (**Jas. 1:13-15**). This is accomplished when we accept the wisdom James offers later on. **James 4:7** *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.*

The current climate of this world is one of selfishness. It tells me I should be allowed to enjoy any pleasure I desire. This has destroyed the standard of moral absolutes. Everything is open to discussion. Nothing is always wrong. We rationalize sinful behavior to the nth degree.

If we are to go to heaven when this life is over, we must serve Him and deny ourselves while we are here. **Matt. 16:24** *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?*

There is joy and peace even as we live here in the knowledge that Christ has overcome the world and in doing so has become the propitiation for our sins so we can also have the victory through our faith (**1 John 5:4**).

Satan is real. He wants to win me over by appealing to my fleshly desires. I must learn to tell myself no if I am going to resist his efforts to deceive.

Strange Marriage

The wedding was over. Joe and his new bride were alone. As the car pulled away, the bride said, "Take me home." "HOME?" Joe exclaimed. "But we haven't started the honeymoon yet!"

"Joe," she said, "I'm glad we're married. We belong to each other and I can use your name as mine, but I want to go back to my old apartment. Now that we're married, I'll try to see you once a week. But as far as living with you is concerned, nothing doing. I'm going back to my old occupation, friends, and pastimes. Oh, yes, I do love you! I've accepted you as my husband, haven't I? I belong to you forever. But I refuse to let you interfere with my life. Of course, if I am sick or need money, I'll call you at once because, after all, you're my husband. In the meantime, thank you for loving me and being my husband, but keep your hands off my life!"

What do you think of this "marriage?" Yet there are so many who call themselves Christians whose attitude toward Jesus is exactly the same as this bride's attitude toward her husband. They say, "Lord, I have confessed you as Savior. I've been baptized. Thank you for saving me. Now leave me alone! I am going back to my old way of life. I'll expect you to help me if I need it since you are my Savior. But as far as living with you is concerned, nothing doing. Of course, when I die I want to come and share the home you are preparing. But I hope that will not be for a long time."

In **Romans 7** we see what is involved in becoming a true Christian. Paul, using marriage as an illustration, says that in becoming a Christian you are joined to Christ who died for your sins and rose again in triumph from the tomb. The implied inquiry is, "Will you take Jesus to be your Savior and Lord for eternity?" becoming a Christian one's response is, "I will" At the precise moment you come forth from the waters of baptism you are *"married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead."* (Rom. 7:4)

... Author unknown Taken from <http://simplebiblestudies.com>

Hannah: A Portrait of God's Lovingkindness

Jim Deason

"Lovingkindness" is a very special Old Testament word. This one word encompassed all the blessings which God extended to His covenant people; blessings which flowed forth from His character. These blessings included but were not limited to God's grace, mercy, compassion, patience, faithfulness, loyalty, and love. A recipient of God's lovingkindness was blessed beyond the ability of words to express.

Moses promised Israel, *"Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do*

them, that the LORD your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers. He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb... You shall be blessed above all peoples; there will be no male or female barren among you...(Deuteronomy 7:12-14). As long as Israel kept His commandments, God's blessings were abundant to over flowing.

There is no better illustration of God's lovingkindness than a woman from the hill country of Ephraim named Hannah. The Bible records, *"Now there was a certain man... and his name was Elkanah ... 2 He had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children."* (1 Samuel 1:1-2).

There is something bleak and foreboding about being barren. You might even euphemistically try to avoid using the word by saying, "we have no children" or, "the Lord has closed her womb." In the end they mean the same thing but they don't sound the same.

Hannah wanted a child with all that was within her. One can imagine that every time she heard the neighborhood girls laughing and playing; every time she heard a cry as one of the boys scrapped his elbow, her motherly instincts kicked into overdrive. But it was always someone else's child, not her own, and that hurt.

Had the Lord withheld His blessings because of her sin? Some probably thought so. They might have even quoted to her **Deuteronomy 7:12-14** to prove their case and call for her repentance.

To make matters worse, Elkanah had taken a second wife. Peninnah was giving her beloved what she couldn't – children. Amazingly, Hannah handled the situation with grace and dignity. You can't say the same, however, about Peninnah. Because of Elkanah's favoritism toward Hannah, Peninnah made Hannah's life miserable.

Hannah was a good woman; a faithful woman. A woman for whom retaliation toward her rival did not seem to be an option. Her worship to God was as regular as the calendar (1 Samuel 1:7). Her prayer was persistent (1 Samuel 1:12) and fervent as she *"poured out"* her soul to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:15) and in her humility she described herself as a lowly "maidservant" (1 Samuel 1:11). Hannah was a woman of faith who believed not just in prayer but in God who answers prayer and fulfills promises. From His throne in heaven God heard and answered her petition. *"It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel..."* (1 Samuel 1:20).

Herein is the lovingkindness of God. Vindication before a rival. An answered prayer. The gift of son. The fulfillment of a promise. A life blessed by God's grace and mercy.

Consider these three things about God's lovingkindness:

First, God's lovingkindness is conditional.

In giving the Ten Commandments God promised his lovingkindness *"to those who love Me and keep My commandments" (Ex. 20:6)*. David promised, *"All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies" (Psalm 25:10)*. God's special blessings came to Hannah because of her faithfulness.

Second, God's lovingkindness is unfailing.

In the NASB the Hebrew word translated lovingkindness (chesed) is twice translated unchanging love. *"Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love" (Micah 7:18 cf. Micah 7:20)*. God is not capricious but dependable and loyal to His covenant people. Hannah pleads to God that He *"remember"* her (1 Samuel 1:11) and He did. More accurately, God had never forgotten her.

Third, God's lovingkindness is to be reciprocated.

God expects those who have received His lovingkindness to, in return, freely give. Solomon said, *"He who pursues righteousness and loyalty (lovingkindness - chesed - jhd) finds life, righteousness and honor" (Proverbs 21:21)*. God expects our character to reflect His (1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 11:44; 19:2). Hannah dedicated Samuel to the service of God. Modern women would do well to follow her example.

Hannah is a life-lesson for you and me in how to receive the very best blessings that heaven has to offer. Be faithful and loyal. Do not put your trust in the future but in Him who holds the future in His hands. And, follow carefully the instructions that God gave the twelve as He sent them on the limited commission, *"freely you received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8)*.

**~via South Cullman Church; Cullman, Alabama.
Taken from The Market Street Messenger**

We NEED Doctrinal Teaching

It has been reported that American students are not doing well in important Math and Science studies. In fact, they rank 35th in the world on achievement tests in Math, and 27th in Science[1]. However, it is also reported that the very same American students rank among the highest in the world regarding how they feel about their Math and Science abilities. This is direct evidence of the over-emphasis that has been given in recent years to the subjective matters of self-worth and self-esteem. Our educators have obviously worried too much about "feelings," and not enough about real learning.

We may be following the same mistaken agenda in

our spiritual teaching. It seems that we have lost a sense of balance in our preaching and in our Bible class studies. We may be stressing certain "feel good" themes too much, while neglecting important instruction in matters of doctrine. The results tend to indicate this. We have a generation of Christians that don't know and can't explain simple doctrinal truths. Many would be hard pressed to explain what's wrong with instrumental music in worship, why we oppose church sponsored recreational and social activities, or what the Bible teaches about institutionalism and unscriptural church cooperative enterprises. Some could not even describe the simple New Testament plan of salvation, or prove that baptism is essential for the remission of sins.

Members of the Lord's church once had the reputation as "people of the Book." We knew and could defend the truth on a wide variety of Bible subjects.

Members of various denominations dreaded, and even avoided, discussions with us because they knew that we knew the Bible and could answer their faulty arguments. Sadly, we've lost much of that reputation. Let's get back to teaching and emphasizing *"all the counsel of God,"* while *"keeping back nothing that is profitable" (Acts 20:20,27)*.

[1] Pew Research Center, 2/2/15
by Greg Gwin THE BEACON - Electronic Edition – 6/14/16

Automaker Henry Ford asked electrical genius Charlie Steinmetz to build the generators for his factory. One day the generators ground to a halt, and the repairmen couldn't find the problem. So Ford called Steinmetz, who tinkered with the machines for a few hours and then threw the switch. The generators whirled to life--but Ford got a bill for \$10,000 from Steinmetz. Flabbergasted, the rather tightfisted car maker inquired why the bill was so high.

Steinmetz's reply: For tinkering with the generators, \$10. For knowing where to tinker, \$9,990. Ford paid the bill.

Today in the Word, MBI, April 1990, p. 27.

Col. 1:9 *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray and make request for you, that ye may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 to walk worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

Eph. 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

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NEWS AND NOTES: REMEMBER
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FATHER OF EMALI PRICE,
STEPHEN KIMKER, HAS A
CHRONIC ILLNESS THAT IS
DEBILITATING AT TIMES. HE
NEEDS OUR PRAYERS.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
CHRISTIAN PARENTING - RON
PECK

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS: THE
BOOK OF ROMANS - J STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10