

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church Sunday School
Winter, 2020
Spiritual Warfare

Week 2: January 19th: Fall of Satan; Paul's References to Satan in His Letters

Review:

- A. Christ raised and ascended over all authorities (Eph. 1:19-22)
- B. We were “dead in trespasses...following the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2)
- C. We are “alive together with Christ...seated...with him in the heavenly places” (Eph. 2:5)
- D. Darkness, over which Satan reigns, defeated; but persists (Eph. 6:12). 3:10. Overlapping ages!
- E. Devil attacks (Eph. 6:11,16). **SPIRITUAL WARFARE.**
- F. We have spiritual resources in the Gospel. **BUT ONLY IN THE GOSPEL.** *Word. Spirit. Prayer. Period.*

1. Person and Work of Satan

A. Creation of Satan (Genesis 1:31)

B. Fall of Satan (Satan means “adversary/accuser. He fights and accuses God and God’s people.)

- i. Fall of angels: 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6
- ii. Devil as head of fallen angels: Matthew 25:41; cf. 9:41; 12:24-27 (OT); Ephesians 2:2.
- iii. Not tempted by another creature; rather, sinned “from within”— John 8:44; 1 John 3:8
- iv. “ruler of this world” (John 12:31); “god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4)
- iv. **PRIDE!!** Lucifer: Isaiah 14:12-14. “Pride is in its essence a form of self-deification.” (Geerhardus Vos). “The real Satanic character consists in a hatred of everything that is above him and solely because it is above him.” (Franz van Baader as quoted by Herman Bavinck)
- v. Satan’s entry to the earth: Genesis 3:1-8
- vi. Revelation 12: **Great red dragon.** Desired to devour the woman’s child. Dragon defeated by heavenly angels. v. 9,12,17: “And **the great dragon** was thrown down, **that ancient serpent**, who is called **the devil** and **Satan**, the **deceiver of the whole world**— he was thrown down to the earth, and angels were thrown down with him...But woe to you, O earth and sea, for **the devil** has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short... Then **the dragon** became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus...” **HE MAKES WAR ON YOU AND ME!!**
- vii. Future, consummated defeat: Romans 16:20; Revelation 20:7-10

“There is truth in the saying ‘No devil, no redeemer!’ If there were no sin, there would be no savior, and the seriousness of sin stands out most vividly in the doctrine of Satan.” Herman Bavinck

Satan is “superhuman, but not divine. He has great power, but he is not omnipotent. He wields great influence on a large, but restricted scale.” Louis Berkhof

Satan is “the ape of God. When God builds a church, Satan adds a chapel; over against the prophet, he raises up a false prophet; over against Christ, he raises the Antichrist... A liar always garbs himself in a guise of truth (angel of light)... Sin is always doomed to borrow... parasite of the good...” Bavinck

2. Paul’s References to Satan in His Letters

- A. Ephesians 4:25-27 (“foothold”); cf. v. 14. Satan and our every day speech!
- B. 1 Corinthians 5:5 (“deliver this man from”); 7:5 (“may not tempt you”)
- C. 2 Corinthians 2:11 (“not be outwitted”); 4:4 (“god of this age”); 6:15 (“Belial”); 10:4-5 (“strongholds” cf. 6:7); 11:3 (“his cunning”); 11:13-15 (“disguises”); 12:7 (“thorn in the flesh”)
- D. 1 Thessalonians 2:18 (“hindered us”); 3:5 (“tempted you”)
- E. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 (“activity of”)
- F. 1 Timothy 1:20 (“handed over”); 2:14 (“woman was deceived”); 3:6-7 (“condemnation of”; “snare of”)
- G. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (“escape from the snare of”)

Conclusion

1. Do you believe in Satan and his dark power?
2. Do you believe you are susceptible to his schemes?
3. Where do you see spiritual warfare in your life, family, our church? How are you responding?