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### Satan and Demonism in the Last Days

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**SATAN AND  
DEMONISM**

*in these last days*

*as  
given  
over*

**THE BIBLE INSTITUTE HOUR**

*by* Chester J. Padgett, D.D.

IF I WERE THE DEVIL — A THOUGHT.

If I were the devil I would have broad plans the spread of the kingdom of evil, and I would use all means to promote this kingdom.

I would recognize that in order to make the greatest gains I would need to do my most subtle work with those who are listed in the army in the opposite camp — those in the kingdom of righteousness. I would note that some of my greatest gains can be made by working through the church and through people who think of themselves as Christians.

If I were the devil I would make work in the kingdom of evil attractive and I would pay liberal wages. No one would work for me who did not get his due and that promptly on time; and even added bonuses later on. Everyone who invested anything in my kingdom could expect compound interest.

Also if I were the devil I would want to keep my patrons informed of the many advantages to my way and never let them suspect there are any disadvantages to service in my kingdom.

If I were the devil, I believe I would do pretty much as the devil does. I am doubtful if I could improve on his methods. — Selected

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SATAN AND DEMONISM IN  
THESE LAST DAYS

a  
series of studies  
given on

THE BIBLE INSTITUTE HOUR

by

✓ John 1915  
Chester J. Padgett, D.D.

MAY, 1958

THE BIBLE INSTITUTE OF LOS ANGELES, INC.  
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n/lc

## SATAN AND DEMONISM IN THESE LAST DAYS

This is a most important subject. It has always been a vital subject, but it is even more so in these days. One of the reasons for the contemporary interest in Satan and demonism is the fact that these are evidently the "last days," at which time the Scriptures indicate there will be an increased activity of the spiritual world (Rev. 9, etc.). That people are asking questions about this subject is apparent from the storm of controversy aroused by the recent publication of an article on Satan by Dr. Billy Graham printed in a well-known national magazine.

Now God's people *should* be concerned about the teaching of the Bible on the subject of the ancient foes of the church. The Scriptures clearly indicate that these enemies of the Saviour and of the Saviour's Church are sold out to do as much damage as possible to those who love the Lord. (I Peter 5:8.)

In launching out in this series of messages, it might be well to indicate a source or two for the benefit of those who may want to pursue the subject further. The Word of God, of course, is *the* source, and all that we believe about Satan and the demons must be based solely upon the Bible. This is a subject that is revealed by the Spirit of God. Delving into the realms of spiritism and demonism without the light of the Word of God is dangerous and may lead to serious consequences. Several books have been written on the subject, based on the Scriptures, and these books the student will find helpful. They are: *War On The Saints*, by Jessie Penn-Lewis, and *Biblical Demonology*, by Merrill Unger. A careful study of these volumes will richly reward the student.

A treatment of Satan and demonism should include a number of studies — the origin of Satan and the demons; the extent and character of the Satanic kingdom; the min-

istry of evil through the demon forces of the universe; Satan's ambition in the world; the activity of demon forces in the concluding few years of this dispensation, and final destiny of Satan and the demons. Let us take up these topics one by one.

## THE ORIGIN OF SATAN AND THE DEMONS

Instantly there arises a problem — why did the great God, the eternal, self-existent, infinite God — infinite in wisdom, holiness, and love — why did *He* permit sin to enter His universe? There are several possible answers. Some say that God cannot and could not prevent sin since He has Himself instituted a free moral universe and will not interfere with the choices of men. Others tell us that God could have prevented sin but that He did not choose to do so.

The question then comes, Why did not God choose to forbid sin to enter the universe? One possible answer is that sin may be in some sense a useful thing in displaying the patience of God, the grace and love of God, and other attributes of the divine nature. This thought seems to emerge from Romans 9:22-24.

Again, God may have permitted sin in order to accomplish the greatest good. We cannot conceive of God permitting anything without having a specific benevolent design. God *must* have had a reason for including in His eternal decree the divine permit for sin to enter. The very fact that it *did* enter indicates that God did right in permitting it, for the God of all the earth cannot do anything wrong!

Now, how did Satan and the innumerable host of evil spirits or demons originate? From the Scriptures we learn that Satan and sin originated in *Heaven*. The prophet Isaiah describes this tragic event in Isa. 14:12-20. It seems to many of us that if sin could originate in Heaven that environment is not the deciding factor in the development of evil, despite

the teachings of communism and socialism. Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, the loveliest spot on earth! Sin comes from the heart, not from the environment!

Whether this celestial revolt against God took place before or after the creation of the world may not be known. Some Bible students feel that Satan fell after the creation of the world, and that his fall brought catastrophe into the world. A study of Gen. 1:1-2 may indicate this development. There are evidences in the crust of the earth of some great ancient upheaval of nature. This could very well have taken place when the earth became the center of Satanic and demonic activity following their rebellion in Heaven.

## THE EXTENT AND CHARACTER OF SATAN'S KINGDOM

Immediately after the baptism of our Lord, which event launched Him out on His public ministry, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil (Matt. 4:1-11.) This temptation was evidently designed to qualify Him, or to demonstrate His qualifications as the Messiah and Saviour. Among other parts of the temptation was the one recorded in vv. 8-10. Here Satan offers Christ the kingdoms of the world if He would fall down and worship him! The Lord Jesus did not contradict the devil; He did not argue his position; He did not deny that what the devil offered he was able to give! In other words, the kingdoms of this world are under the control of Satan!

The question comes, When did Satan gain control of mankind and the nations of the earth with their kingdoms? Evidently at the time of the Fall of man. God gave Adam dominion over the world. That dominion he surrendered when man gave himself over to the devil, thus abdicating his throne as the vice-regent of God.

In Matt. 12:22-26, the Lord Jesus indicates the *fact* of

Satan's kingdom. In II Cor. 4:3-4, Paul speaks of his Satanic majesty as "the god of this age." In Eph. 2:2-3, Paul tells us that the spirit of Satan dominates and activates *every* unregenerate soul. In Eph. 6:11-12, the Apostle indicates the organizational system of the hosts of wickedness, the demon forces of the world. Peter calls attention of the Christians to the fact of their enemy and speaks of his ferocity (I Pet. 5:8.)

### THE MINISTRY OF EVIL THROUGH THE DEMON FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE

Praise God, Satan is not absolute in power! By this I mean that the devil is not omnipotent; he is not omniscient; he is not omnipresent! Only God is absolute; all others are His creatures and under His sovereign control. Satan is localized. He cannot be everywhere at once as God can. Thus Satan is forced to work through his demon hosts, the great company of angels who fell with him in his rebellion against the Almighty. Eph. 6:12 depicts the organization of these demon forces as they war against the saints of God.

Through history the forces of Satan have been at work in the erection of the kingdom of evil. Polytheistic idolatry is but the front for demon influences in the world. The Bible tells us that the worship of a myriad of deities by superstitious people around the world is in reality demon worship (I Cor. 10:19-21.)

The Gospel era was marked by demonstrations of powerful demonic forces opposing the ministry of the Lord Jesus. Thousands of men and women, and children, too, were brought to Christ or came to Him seeking deliverance from the control of demons (Matt. 4:23-24.)

A study of the Gospels and the New Testament indicates that Satanic powers are responsible for a share in every crime committed by men (Eph. 2:2-3.) All opposition to God, drunkenness, uncleanness, murder, dope, false doc-

trines, etc., are of demonic origin — the demons using men as their tools to accomplish their diabolic ends.

Men and women, given over to Satan and demonic control are led step by step into disaster, motivated by an invisible power that is ruthless and relentless until the victims are drowned in the quagmire of sin and rebellion against God! (John 10:9-10.)

Satan and the demons were the powerful foes of the Saviour when He came to earth to accomplish eternal redemption for His people. No sooner had He launched out into His ministry than Satan himself, king of the realm of darkness, did his very best to sidetrack the Son of God (Matt. 4:1-11.)

The Gospels seem to indicate that all the powerful forces of evil were arrayed against Christ in His determination to go to the Cross. The reason is apparent: that Cross spelled the eternal doom of Satan's program in building a rival kingdom that would include all men. Note how Satan inspired Peter to oppose Christ in His movements toward the Cross (Matt. 16:21ff.). Satan can enter into the hearts and minds of men who are in rebellion against Christ and can persuade them to betray the Son of God (Luke 22:3.) Satan can influence even believers to deny the Lord who loved them and died for them (Luke 22:31ff.).

Study of the gospels and the epistles of the New Testament yields a rich harvest of truth regarding Satan and demon forces. Demons have power to inflict diseases of both mind and body. Note the case of the poor woman whom Satan had bound for eighteen years (Luke 13:11ff.). Study the terrible experience of the man demon-possessed as given in Mark 5:1ff.

Demon forces exercise a certain control over the forces of nature, causing storms and physical calamities which take their toll of human life and misery. In Mark 4:35-41, there is the account of a great storm, unusual in its fury even for the Sea of Galilee. The fact that our Lord "rebuked" the wind (v. 39) indicates that He was dealing not with

the impersonal forces of nature, but with an intelligent force behind nature. It is our belief that this power was the power of Satan and the demons in a desperate attempt to drown the Son of God and thus rid the world of the true King and Saviour!

Demons seek to influence the thinking of men by somehow suggesting thoughts of evil and tempting to sin. Satan came to our Lord in this fashion (Matt. 4:1-11.) In His parables in Matt. 13, our Saviour indicates that the devil can come to the minds of men after they have heard the Word of truth, and "catch" it away. (Matt. 13:19.) Over and over again the Word of God cautions God's people to protect their minds with the Word (Rom. 12:2; Phil. 4:8, etc.)

Let us not think, however, that believers are powerless and undefended from Satan's attacks. The Bible tells the Christian how he may control Satan and the demons, and how he can have complete victory over them. One way is to plead the blood. Satan is defeated by the prayerful use of the blood (Rev. 12:11.) The blood speaks of salvation from sin and Satan through the death of Christ. This death was not in vain, but is powerful to total defeat of the devil and his demons.

Another means of defeating Satan and the demons is through full surrender to God (Rom. 6:10-19; 12:1-2.) Again, victory comes through the skilful use of the believer's armament described in Eph. 6:10-19. Victory comes through faith (I John 5:4.) Victory comes through a full knowledge of Satan and the demons, and their devices (II Cor. 2:11.)

### SATAN'S AMBITION FOR THIS WORLD

The question comes, What is Satan's interest in this world? What are his ambitions? What is his goal? The Bible gives the answer. The chief ambition in the devil's mind is the establishment of a rival kingdom in the world,

a kingdom opposed to the Kingdom of God. This fact is brought out in the temptation of Christ recorded in Matt. 4:8-9. In this Scripture Satan offers Christ all the kingdoms of the world. At that time he had them in his control and could do as he wished. The Lord Jesus did not contradict him in his statement of ownership of the kingdoms of the world!

Had we time we could trace the efforts of Satan to destroy the holy seed. The history is clear in the divine record from the slaying of Abel to the slaughter of the male children under king Herod. Had the holy line been wiped out there could not have been a Saviour!

In his subtlety and cunning deception the devil works on the depraved minds of the world's unsaved in building his world system. Through the centuries there has been an effort on the part of the leaders of the nations to form a world kingdom without Christ. Study carefully the account of the Tower of Babel in Gen. 11:1-9. Note in this Scripture the reason for this tower and the divine displeasure and destruction of this attempt at world government.

There are powerful forces at work in the world today to rebuild the Tower of Babel. International communism has this very goal in view. Communist literature indicates that the aim of world communism is the creation of a new world, a classless society, with the state as God! The current internationalism embodied in the United Nations Organization is the modern counterpart of the ancient Tower of Babel. The UNO is, without question, under the leadership of the demon forces of the world, leading the nation to a final revolt against God and His Christ (Psalm 2.)

The Bible depicts the coming events in the formation of world government. At the head of this world-system Satan will place his man, his substitute for Jesus Christ, called in the Scriptures "the man of sin" (II Thess. 2:3), and "the son of perdition" (II Thess. 2:3.) Study Rev. 13:1-10 for further information about this powerful political leader of the end times. This man is the Antichrist!

## THE COMING OUTBURST OF DEMONIC POWER

The Bible indicates that, just as there was a tremendous manifestation of demonic power during the first Advent of Christ, so there will be another manifestation unprecedented in history in connection with the Lord's Second Coming. He came the first time to inaugurate His spiritual kingdom in the world. This development Satan and the demons bitterly opposed. When Christ comes again, or, just prior to His appearing, Satan will launch an all-out attack on the world in one last desperate effort to thwart the purposes of God.

During the Tribulation period, demon forces will be liberated from the heart of the earth to invade the world. The demons are probably the fallen angels assigned to Hades (II Peter 2:4.) Not all the fallen angels were imprisoned, but some of them were according to this Scripture. These evil spirits will be let loose upon the world during the Tribulation with horrible consequences (Rev. 9.) The central thought of the first invasion (Rev. 9:1-12) seems to be that of a wave of mental disease, caused no doubt by the unspeakable horrors of the demonic assault. These poor victims will be locked up in mental institutions in chains or straight-jackets, crying out for death but unable to die! (v. 6.)

Unbelievable wickedness will sweep the earth (vv. 20-21.) There will be the worship of demons (v. 20.). There will be a terrible wave of murders, increasing belief in witchcraft and sorcery, a complete breakdown of the moral standards of the world, and a great wave of thievery (v. 21.)

During this tragic period Satan and his horde of unclean demon spirits will be cast out of their heavenly abode to the earth following a gigantic struggle in heaven between Satan and his angels and Michael and the angels of God (Rev. 12:7-9.) Time for the forces of evil is now running out. Satan launches a vicious attack on the Jews, the last awful wave of Anti-Semitism in history (Rev. 12:13-16.)

This terrible time of Jew-hatred is called "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Dan. 12:1.) Our Lord tells us that if He did not personally intervene in behalf of Israel there would not be a Jew left on earth! (Matt. 24:21-22.) The Bible speaks of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16.) What is this? It is the showdown battle between the despised Israelis and the international armies of the United Nations Organization! Antichrist sends this international army into the Holy Land with one end in view — to liquidate the Jews. Why? Because Israel will be the *only* nation unwilling to surrender her religious and political sovereignty to the world government! It is for this reason, no doubt, that our Lord predicts that Israel will be hated of all nations (Matt. 24:9.)

## THE FINAL DESTINY OF SATAN AND THE DEMONS

God always has the last word! There is no power in the universe greater than His. God permitted Satan and the demons for reasons of His own design. When He has accomplished His purpose with them He will rid the universe of them. When the Lord Jesus returns in glory, He will cast Antichrist and the false prophet of Rev. 13, into the flames of hell (Rev. 19:20), and He will bind Satan and the demons for one thousand years so that they can deceive the nations no more during that period of time (Rev. 20:1-3.) At the end of the thousand years, Satan and his hosts will be liberated for a brief season to muster the rebellious of the world against Christ. This last opposition to God and His will shall be overcome by the power of God and His will shall be overcome by the power of God, the wicked dead will be resurrected to stand before God at the Great White Throne judgment, and then there will be the new heavens and the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness (Rev. 21-22.)



## CONCLUSION

The main point of this series of studies has been to show that the Bible teaching on Satan and the demons gives the answer to much in history and much in personal experience that otherwise is very puzzling or has no definite answer. When history is interpreted in the light of the Word of God the pieces begin to fit together and the pattern becomes clear.

Another application is this: all men are activated by one of two powers, some by the power of God, others by the power of Satan (Eph. 2:3.) There is no neutral ground, no in-between area. Every man is on one side or the other. My dear friend, on which side are you?

## MY ADVOCATE

I sinned. And straightway, post-haste, Satan flew  
Before the presence of the Most High God,  
And made a railing accusation there.

He said, "This soul, this thing of clay and sod,  
Has sinned. 'Tis true that he has named Thy name,

But I demand his death, for Thou hast said,  
'Tis soul that sinneth, it shall die.' Shall not  
Thy sentence be fulfilled? Is justice dead?  
Send now this wretched sinner to his doom.

What other thing can righteous ruler do?"  
And thus he did accuse me day and night,  
And every word he spoke, O God, was true!

Then quickly One rose up from God's right hand,  
Before whose glory angels veiled their eyes.

He spoke, "Each jot and tittle of the law

Must be fulfilled: the guilty sinner dies!

But wait. . . . Suppose his guilt were all transferred  
To ME and that I paid his penalty!

Behold My hands, My side, My feet! One day

I was made sin for him, and died that he  
Might be presented faultless, at Thy throne!"

And Satan fled away. Full well he knew  
That he could not prevail against such love,  
For every word my dear Lord spoke was true!

—By Martha Snell Nicholson



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