

The Devil

By Philip Venables

1 The Reality Of The Devil.

The devil is real. Let us not be deceived, he is a real being. He is seen on the pages of scripture from Genesis 3, when he tempted Eve, until Revelation 20, when he is sent to his eternal destiny; the lake of fire.

The devil has an innumerable number of angels operating under his domain. In every way these legions, along with their master, are anti-God, anti-Christ and anti-Christian.

These beings, although operating behind the scenes, are real. They are tangible; they are not figments of our imagination. We read in Ephesians 6, **“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand”** (Eph.6:10-13). This reminds us that it is not the things that are seen that are most important in our lives, but rather the unseen spiritual forces. There are real evil beings who stand against God, His ways and His people. And we need to take a stand against them.

2 The Origin Of The Devil.

The devil was created as a mighty angel, one of the cherubim, but fell from this august position through pride. In two Old Testament passages we are given two descriptions of human individuals; the King of Babylon (Isaiah 14:3-21) and the Prince of Tyre (Ezekiel 28:1-19). In these passages we discern descriptions which transcend mere descriptions of a human being. They describe Satan himself. So we see the description of the fall of Lucifer in Isaiah 14:12-15

**“How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!
You said in your heart,
“I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.”
But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
to the depths of the pit.”**

And then in Ezekiel 28:12-19:

**“This is what the Sovereign Lord says:
‘You were the seal of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
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.
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.
You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.
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.
Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendour.
So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings.
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.
All the nations who knew you
are appalled at you;
you have come to a horrible end
and will be no more.”

Satan was an exalted being. However, he fell through pride. We are reminded of this when we read about the qualifications for the elder: **“He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgement as the devil”** (1Tim.3:6).

Similarly, we read concerning the demons that, **“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgement on the great Day”** (Jude v 6). These angelic beings were not content to accept their position. They wanted something bigger and better; they were proud. Pride was the origin of the rebellion of Satan. It is the root of all sin. We need to aware of this ourselves. Pride is destructive. The scripture says **Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall”** (Proverbs 16:18).

3 The Character Of Satan

Various names and descriptions are given of the devil. However, there are two names, in particular, used for the devil in scripture and they convey to us something of the character of the devil.

- Satan is derived from a Hebrew Word which means the adversary. This name tells us he is the one who is against God and His people. He is hostile, bitter, nasty and hates anything belonging to God. He is against anything that is good; anything that is of God.
- The devil means the accuser.

**“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
 “Now have come the salvation and the power
 and the kingdom of our God,
 and the authority of His Messiah.
 For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,
 who accuses them before our God day and night,
 has been hurled down” (Rev.12:10).**

The devil is relentlessly bringing accusations before God against the Lord's people, but praise God we have an advocate who intercedes on our behalf. His Name is Jesus and He is better and bigger than the devil. So let us hear these two magnificent scriptures:-

“But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One” (1 John 2:1).
“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” (Rom. 8:33-34).

As we think of the character of Satan let us look at three more issues:

- The nastiness of Satan is brought out in:

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (Jn. 8:44).

Satan is a murderer. He seeks to destroy life. God is the God of life. Jesus said *“I am the way and the truth and the life”* (see Jn. 14:6). Satan is the one who works death and destruction; he seeks to harm. The evil one seeks to destroy life.

He is also a liar. He does not like the truth. He hates the truth. He wants to deceive. He wants to take people away from the truth.

The two issues just mentioned go together. Truth always leads to life; lies always lead to death, and the following scripture gives confirmatory evidence of this:

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death” (Rev. 21:8). Liars are assigned to the second death.

- The craftiness of the devil is brought out in:

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the snake's cunning, your minds may some how be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (2 Cor.11:3), and **“Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes”** (Eph. 6:11).

The devil is crafty and devious. He is ever working to bring people down. He ever wants to turn people away from God. In order to achieve this he uses a multitude of schemes.

- The sinfulness of Satan can be discerned in:

“The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” (1 Jn. 3:8).

Satan has been involved in sin from the beginning. His whole being is given over to sin. He schemes and manipulates and deceives so that he can bring people into sin.

4 The History Of The Devil.

Satan today is busy operating on this earth, but his destiny is the pit of hell. What is his full history though? Where has Satan come from, and where is he going?

- Originally in Heaven

He was a glorious angel who was cast out of heaven through pride. This was outlined in the origin of Satan above.

- Now in this World

Now his domain is in this world and its associated atmospheric realms. The LORD refers to him as the prince of this world: **“Now is the time for judgement on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out”** (John 12:31).

Moreover, Paul says to the Ephesians: **“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”** (Eph. 2:1-2). Prior to conversion the Ephesian Christians were following the ways of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, Satan.

And to the Corinthians Paul writes: **“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”** (2 Cor. 4:4). Unbelievers are blinded by the god of this age, Satan.

We need to notice the terms used in these scriptures. The devil is **“the prince of this world”**, **“the ruler of the kingdom of the air”** and **“the god of this age”**.

Throughout history there are three spurts of satanic activity which are discernible:

1. Right at the beginning leading to the fall of man.
 2. When Jesus our Lord was on earth, demon possession and demon activity seems to have been extensively manifest. It is pertinent to note that right at the beginning of our Lord's public ministry Satan came to attack Him. We read He **was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan** (Mark 1:13). After the forty days came the final triple onslaught from the devil (see Matt. 4:2-11)
 3. Right before the LORD returns to earth. At this time during the great tribulation there is an outbreak of vile activity against God. In particular, this is seen as Satan's masterpiece the anti-Christ is brought forward and sets himself as God in the temple. We read of this:
“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation’, spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand — then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains” (Matt. 24:15-16).
- After the LORD returns in glory.

Upon the Lord's return to this earth Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss. He will no longer roam about seeking to devour people (see 1 Peter 5:8).

We read:

“And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient snake, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time” (Rev. 20:1-3).

He will be in the abyss for a thousand years; the millennium. After the millennium of a thousand years Satan is released, there is the final rebellion of mankind fuelled by satanic fury. We read:

“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth — Gog and Magog — and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city He loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them”
 (Rev. 20:7-9).

Then finally,

“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Rev. 20:10). Satan’s final destination is the Lake of Fire.

5 The defeat of Satan

Satan's eternal suffering in the lake of fire is the demonstration of his complete

defeat. However, the basis of this defeat is sealed at the cross. At the cross Satan was defeated. Satan's great purpose is to embrace everyone in death. I suggest, he was pleased when he had the Lord die on the cross. Every impression is that all the forces of darkness were conspiring to drive him there. Our Lord said to those who came to arrest Him **Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour – when darkness reigns** (Luke 22:53). However, Satan, the king of darkness did not know that the cross spelt his doom.

Let us see these scriptures which demonstrate the defeat of Satan at the cross:

“Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil —and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” (Heb. 2:14-15).

“The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” (1 John 3:8).

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Col. 2:15).

The lesson we need to have firmly rooted in our minds is that Satan is a defeated foe. Let us never forget that. No matter how hard he comes against us; he is defeated. and he is defeated by the One who is our Saviour and Lord.

6 The Activities Of The Devil.

Satan's agenda, quite simply, is to destroy anything that brings honour to God. This provides the governing principle for all of Satan's activities, and it is all manifest in his desire to harm people, particularly God's people. Let us consider then how he seeks to harm God's people.

- The manner of his appearance.

We need to be aware that he presents himself in different ways in order to seek to achieve his nefarious purposes. Sometimes he comes very obviously and for all to see. Peter expresses it like this:

“Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

On the other hand there are times when he appears as “all sweetness and light”. Paul puts it like this:

“For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve” (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

- Through different schemes he is working against people.

The Lord says concerning Peter:

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:31-32).

Then in 2 Timothy 2 we read (concerning unbelievers):

“Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will” (2 Tim. 2:25-26).

We notice from these scriptures that Satan is using his varied schemes and activities to destroy people. He does not want anyone to know God. He does not want anyone to make progress for God. We should never forget this. We should not be surprised that there is opposition when people are considering the claims of Christ in the gospel or seeking to move forward in living for God.

- The way Satan works

The pattern of his activities down the ages was set on the first day that he set himself to step in and destroy God's beautiful creation. Let us then look at his activities on that day. Through this we will seek to discern what are his ongoing activities. This is what the scripture says:

“Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

The woman said to the snake “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

“You will not certainly die,” the snake said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves” (Genesis 3:1-7).

First of all let us establish that this is Satan. At the end of Satan's time on earth we read of an angel that, **“He seized the dragon, that ancient snake, who is the devil, or Satan”** (Rev. 20:2). In Genesis 3 Satan is working through the body of a snake.

- He exploits weakness.

As we have already seen, Satan is cunning, and in his wicked scheming he seeks

to exploit weaknesses. The woman/wife is the weaker vessel. Peter says: **“Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers”** (1 Peter 3:7). So Satan seeks to destroy humanity through attacking the woman.

He sought to do the same with our LORD who was for forty days without food; He was at His weakest, but of course even in our Lord's apparent weakness there was nothing he could exploit. We need to learn from this that Satan comes against us and seeks to exploit our weak points. Let us not be ignorant of his devises.

- He contradicts God's Word.

Interestingly, in his scheming to destroy humanity Satan attacks the Word of God; he seeks to undermine the Word. If he can get people thinking that the Word of God is not trustworthy then he is on his way to victory. Today he continues to cast doubt upon the truthfulness and reliability of the Word. He is still saying: *Did God really say that?* Let us see what he did in the garden and take heed.

This is the command God gave to Adam,

“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die” (Genesis 2:16-17).

But look what the devil says in Genesis 3:4: **'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman**". Satan contradicts the Word given by the LORD God says you will die if you disobey; Satan says you will not die. Who was Eve going to believe. Who are we going to believe today? We need to stand *fully* with God on the Word of God.

Remember what our Saviour did, He responded to the devil's temptation with, **“IT IS WRITTEN”** (see Matt. 4:4,7,10).

Satan is still in the business of undermining, contradicting and denying the Word of God. He seems to have a particular interest presently in attacking the doctrine of creation. Let us consider this example from the British parliament.

Jonathan Reynolds MP asked the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to schools on the teaching of creationism. Elizabeth Truss (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education) replied on the 14th February 2013; *“The Department for Education has made it clear that creationism has no place in any science curriculum and should not be taught as a valid scientific alternative to scientific theories. Creationism does not accord with the consensus of the scientific community or the very large body of established scientific evidence. There is scope for pupils to discuss beliefs about the origins of the Earth and living things, such as creationism, in religious education, as long as it is not presented as a valid alternative to established scientific theory”* (1).

Do we believe in a God who created or not? Do we believe God's truth or Satan's lies?

- Satan represents God as a Killjoy.

God's provision in the garden was vast, satisfying and sufficient. Nevertheless, Satan nudges Eve to regard God as stingy. Consider in Genesis 3:5 how Satan manipulates Eve into thinking God does not want the best for her and that she deserves better. Satan says, **“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil”** (Gen. 3:5).

When people are thinking about Christianity one of the things Satan says to them is that they will not be satisfied and God does not want the best for them. It is a lie. We need to remember the truth of our Lord's words **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full** (John 10:10).

- He wants people to go with the World.

What is the definition of the World? According to John it is as follows, **“For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world”** (1 John 2:16). Given this definition look at how Eve responded to Satan's insinuations in Genesis 3, **“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh) and pleasing to the eye, (lust of the eyes) and also desirable for gaining wisdom (pride of life), she took some and ate it”** (Genesis 3:6).

We note further that John says, **“If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them”** (1John 2:15). In his manoeuvrings Satan trapped Eve and led her away to go with the world. Thereby she is no longer going with God. John further enlightens us to how connected the world and the devil are when he says, **“The whole world is under the control of the evil one”** (1 John 5:19b).

Let us now move away from Genesis 3 and consider other ways in which the devil works:

- He seeks to hinder the work of God going forward.

“But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you — certainly I, Paul, did, again and again — but Satan blocked our way” (1 Thess. 2:17-18). Satan is here blamed for blocking Paul from going to Thessalonica.

We further see his work in Zechariah 3:

“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?” (Zech. 3:1-2).

In this passage we see Satan revealed as the adversary who is set to resist the work of high priest. He does this by bringing accusations against Joshua. We

can almost hear words along the lines of: *“How can he serve as high priest given his uselessness and poor character”* This pattern is found in all who serve God. Yes, God's servants all accept that we are no good, but praise God, that as burning sticks snatched for the fire, he uses us.

In Matthew 13:37-39 we read, **“The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels”**.

Here we find the Lord establishing His kingdom in this world through saving His people, but Satan hates this. He fights back to establish as many weeds as possible.

In studying the book of Acts, one of the perspectives we notice in considering the life of the early church, is that Satan was seeking to oppose the movement forward of the work of God. Ananias was one who the devil used to thwart the work of God. **“Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? (Acts 5:3).**

- The activities of Satan are restricted.

We read in Job:

“One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming throughout the earth, going to and fro on it.”

Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

“Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD” (Job 1:6-12).

Satan could only take hostile action against Job with the permission of the Lord. Whatever it is that Satan undertakes he only does so under the sovereign hand of God. Satan cannot initiate a plan that thwarts God's plan.

- The LORD overrules Satan's ferocious activities for his glory.

Let us look at what the experience of Paul was.

“Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I

pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

Paul was faced with an onslaught from the evil one. He responded in a way that all true believers should do. He prayed to the Lord. The reply from the Lord was faith affirming. God uses Satan's onslaughts for the benefit of His people.

7 Our Response To The Devil

- We are not to be ignorant of his devices.

“And what I have forgiven — if there was anything to forgive — I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes” (2 Cor. 2:10-11). We do have an enemy and we need to remember that.

- We are not to see Satan everywhere.

Some have the tendency to think there is an evil spirit behind every sin. Satan rejoices when people sin. However, we cannot hold him culpable for every sin. We sin; we need to take responsibility for the sin we commit. Some people want to blame every lust on an evil spirit of lust. No! Inappropriate sexual lust is a sin and human beings are responsible. Let us not be too willing to shift the blame for our sins to Satan.

There is some hint of this in these words of the LORD to Peter. He says: **“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers”** (Luke 22:31).

Satan is operating to bring Peter down. However, the Lord does not look for Peter to rebuke the devil. Rather, He looks for Peter's repentance. It is repentance which maintains us in God's favour; not the continual casting out of the devil and demons.

Repentance is the key to spiritual progress not exorcisms.

- We are to resist the devil.

Notwithstanding that we don't see Satan in everything, there is a real call in scripture to resist the devil. James says, **“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”** (James 4:7).

Then Peter says:

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

- How are we to resist?

We are to put on the full armour of God. Paul writes to the Ephesians:

“Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Eph. 6:11-17).

Every day we should be thoughtful about making sure we have on the armour of God.

- Remember our Saviour.

The final part of the armour which is given to every Christian, for every Christian is called to be a soldier, is the sword of the spirit, and this sword is the Word of God. It is, therefore, instructive to see what the Lord used in response to the attack of Satan. He wielded the Word of God:

“The devil said to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'

Jesus answered, 'It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone.”'

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.'

Jesus answered, 'It is written: “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”'

The devil led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”'

Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time” (Luke 4:3-13).

Similarly we need to use the Word against the devil. There is nothing wrong with actually speaking out the Word of God.

8. Conclusion

I conclude with these observations:-

- Satan is a foe.
- He is a real foe.
- He is a vile foe.
- He is a foe who we can overcome because he is a defeated foe, and therefore let us leave this study with the triumph of our Lord Jesus upon our hearts.

Peter was writing about baptism and says:

“It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him” (1 Peter 3:21b-22).

Every angelic being whether good or bad whether Gabriel or Satan is subject to Him. His resurrection seals His victory.

As we battle through this world and are assailed by the attacks of Satan we hear Paul's words to the Romans:

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Romans 16:20).

All glory be to God; Satan is a conquered foe.

Notes

- (1) For more information on the present ministry of Jesus, our Lord; see the article at <http://www.felthamevangelicalchurch.org.uk/fec/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/What-is-our-Lord-is-doing-today.pdf>
- (2) [Hansard source](#) (Citation: HC Deb, 14 February 2013, c796W)

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