

THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE, or WHAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SATAN

INTRODUCTION:

At the conclusion of lesson going to be standing while sing a song of encouragement for those of you who may be here who've never obeyed the gospel of J.C. **AND ALSO**, for those who've obeyed in the past but haven't maintained your allegiance and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. **B+R+C+B=R of S.**

TONIGHT, want to talk to you about THAT ONE who keeps many of us from the kind of commitment to God that'll see us **into heaven eternally!** And I want to begin by telling you that, until **December 21, 1988**, the residents of Lockerbie, Scotland, affectionately referred to their little hamlet as "**the town where nothing happens**". And they liked it that way! In fact, Lockerbie was a haven of sorts. Its residents were there BECAUSE OF the solitude, seeking relief from the hustle and bustle of the city. A small, quaint town where everyone seemed to know everyone else!

But on Dec. 21, 1988, something **DID** happen in Lockerbie. Something of **significance!** Something that **changed the status** of that little town forever! For on 12/21/88, a terrorist bomb exploded on board a PanAm jetliner above Lockerbie. And the bodies of the 259 passengers on board that PanAm flight soon littered the ground of the Scottish countryside. Also, at least 11 innocent, unsuspecting villagers were killed on the ground! On that date those residents learned what we in every other corner of the earth know: **There is no place to hide from terrorism! Terrorists have no conscience! The entirety of the global community is their playground! No one is immune! There is no place to hide!**

The SPIRITUAL APPLICATION of this terrible event is rather easy to make. Our "adversary, the devil" -- old SATAN himself -- **also has no conscience!** The earth is **also HIS playground!** He goes "**to and fro**" **considering how to wreak havoc in the lives of God's children.** He **INVADES** what we believe to be our most secure sanctuaries! **Quite honestly, there is no place to hide from him!**

I. WE WANT TO START BY FOCUSING ON ONE OF THE BIGGEST QUESTIONS RELIGIOUS PEOPLE HAVE TODAY IS, "WHERE DID SATAN COME FROM?"

[Did God create him just to tempt us? Does God create evil? Did God give him his power? & finally: So, really, whose fault is it if I'm lost?]

A. May I impress you with the fact that Satan is a factual, specific, reality in our world today!

1. Easy to believe in a real, personal GOD, but usually only look on Satan as some kind of **nebulous** form of evil! **[something that's indistinct and obscure]**

2. BELIEVING IN GOD, we accept the information of His creation: a result of which are **three kinds of beings** in the universe today---

a) **Divine Beings:** Father/ Son/ Holy Spirit. cf. **Matt.3:16-17.**

b) **Angelic Beings:** Those holy, created beings that are helpers of the Lord in the administration of His Will.

c) **Human Beings:** People! God's creation. YOU and ME!

[We usually think we have a better handle on the first & third than on the angelic beings.]

3. God, in His revealed word, and to the best of MY understanding, mentions at least **THREE THINGS** that angelic beings do ---

a) **Isa.6:1-2-** Here they attended to Deity and proclaimed the Lord's holiness.

b) **Heb.2:2-** They attended and had a part in the giving of the law of Moses.

c) **Heb.1:14-** Ministering spirits, to render service to God's elect. HOW? We just don't know!

B. **May I suggest a PERSONAL PERCEPTION as to where I believe Satan and Evil came from?** [First, two O.T. passages]---

1. **Isa.14:4, 12-14-** *"that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, "How the oppressor has ceased, And how fury has ceased!"* This is a specific prophecy, referring DIRECTLY to the **king of Babylon**. [There can be NO QUESTION about this, since it's STATED, specifically & categorically!]
 - a) May I suggest that **Belshazzar** is being pronounced guilty of the same attitudes and sins of which Satan was guilty of in his fall from his holy estate **EONS BEFORE** this historical fact that's recorded in Isaiah [and so this king of Babylon is a **representation** or a **manifestation** or an **embodiment** of that which had already happened previously. We sometimes refer to it as *deja vu!*]
 - b) **vs. 12-** *"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!"* KJV translates "O star of the morning" as "LUCIFER".
 - c) **vss. 13-14-** These verses contain FIVE statements of sin, **keying on rebellious willfulness!** **So here you have LUCIFER, the star of the morning, who says:** *"But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'*
 - d) **I believe this attitude that's attributed to the king of Babylon REPRESENTS the prideful will of a previous ANGEL, created pure, but who wanted to be MORE!**
2. **Ezek.28:11, 13-15, 16b-17-** *"Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,. 13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you. 16b " And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you."* Passage is speaking of the king of Tyre --- no question about it!
 - a) I suggest that this, too, is an emulation of something already done in the history of man. Did the king of Tyre do these things? **ABSOLUTELY! But I ALSO THINK these same things happened previously, early on in the beginning of time!**
 - b) He calls him an anointed CHERUB! He calls him a CREATED ONE! One, I believe, who was created holy and righteous and blameless.
 - c) Now I understand the difficulty of these passages, and that **I COULD BE MISTAKEN in my understanding of them!**

**** **BUT I'M NOT THROUGH, JUST YET** ****

[To understand difficult passages you try to compare them with those that are CLEAR! SO, on to the New Testament.....]

3. **1 Tim.3:1-** regarding the qualifications of Elders. No "ROOKIES" in this job! No new converts!

- a) WHY??? **vs. 6- “Lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil”!**
- b) This was the **very point** in which the devil incurred condemnation --- **because he rose up in pride** [cf. *Isaiah* and *Ezekiel*].
4. **2 Pet.2:1- There WERE false prophets, there WILL BE false teachers, & GOD WON'T SPARE!** **vs. 4- BECAUSE** God did not spare the angels when **they sinned!**
- a) Those **CREATED, HOLY, RIGHTEOUS** Beings **SINNED = So** a place was prepared for THEM because of their sins! [cf. **Matt.25:41-...”eter. fire prepared for the devil and his angels!”**]
- b) God NEVER intended that man should be cast into HELL --- **IT was prepared for SATAN!**
5. **Jude 6- “And angels who did not keep their own domain, (but abandoned their proper abode), He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”**
- C. SO, my **PERSONAL** conclusions regarding SATAN and EVIL:
- All creation by God was GOOD! He didn't create EVIL! Evil is the result of those angels who were created GOOD having “unlawful desires” to be like GOD. They didn't keep their proper place!
 - Hell was prepared for the eternal angels who didn't keep their holy estate --- for their punishment.
 - SIN [evil] originated with Satan's rebellion and prideful desires. He was cast out of heaven to roam the earth. SO, because evil exists, there is a WARFARE by Satan against God and His eternal plan and purpose, and it involves everyone who tries to serve God!
 - AND FINALLY, AT THE END OF TIME:
*Good angels & those influenced by the gospel--> will be before the face of God!
Evil angels, including the devil, will be in the hell God prepared for them, **PLUS any who allow themselves to be influenced BY Satan's crew!***
- D. IF FROM YOUR STUDY OF GOD'S WORD you have arrived at a different perception about the origin of Satan, don't allow me to dissuade you! Just continue to respect the idea that **he's a REALITY, and is out to thwart the efforts of God in all of our lives!**

II. NEXT, WHAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE ABOUT HOW SATAN INVADES OUR HOMES!

- A. How sad that Satan should have an influence on that which God has expended so much effort to exalt, yet Satan's footprints are readily recognizable in so many of our homes!
- He's seen in the parents who work two jobs apiece in order to give their kids the best “**THINGS**”, but deny them their **time** and **love!** **Lk.12:15; Tit.2:4-** (*Older women are to “train the young women to **love** their husbands, to **love** their children.”* [Agape])
 - He's seen in children who rebel against parental authority, seemingly with parental approval. **Col.3:20-** (*Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may lose heart...*)
 - He's personified in the wife who disdains subjection, and in the husband whose tyrannical rule feeds that disdain. **Col.3:18-19** (*Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.*)
 - He has the upper hand in the parents who feel a keep responsibility to train their children intellectually, physically and socially, but are oblivious to their spiritual needs. **Eph.6:4.**
 - And his invasion is so evident in husbands and wives who view their marriage as a toy, which, if damaged, may be discarded with hardly a thought! **Gen.2:24; Rom.7:4-** (*“A married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives...”*)

- B. What a far cry all this is from that which God sets forth through Paul in **Ephesians 5 and 6**, in **ordaining HIS STANDARDS** for our obedience!
1. The **husband-father** who's trying to be a spiritual leader in his home by manifesting his **TRUE GODLY LOVE** for his wife and children with his **CARING** guidance & leadership; and the **wife-mother** who shows respect and honor and love to her own husband and children; and the **children** who are giving deserved respect and honor and obedienceare not just a bunch of **ODD-BALLS FROM OUTER SPACE!**
 2. They are GOD-HONORING and GOD-GLORIFYING people who, at the same time, are trying to THWART the invasion of this **world-terrorist SATAN** from their home!

III. WHAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE RE. HOW SATAN INFLUENCES OUR THINKING?

- A. In the quietness of our lives ***we ought to be able to find peace in our thoughts***, and yet even in **THIS** arena, Satan is such a formidable foe!
1. He surrounds us with encouragements to feed our minds with HIS standards, HIS words, HIS actions ---- BY HIS ANGELS who appeal to us as our friends and loved ones!
 2. He entices us with every thought of lust or deceit or revenge, and he is overjoyed when we entertain those things that will bring unholiness and separation from God.
 3. **He KNOWS=** that **WHAT WE THINK, WE ARE, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING!** [**Prov.23:7**]; =and that whatever we are in our hearts is manifested in our speech, for "*out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh*" [**Matt.12:34**]; and he knows that whatever we **say** and **do** **INFLUENCES OTHERS** to be just like us!
 4. And Satan is delighted with us when we attach the word "**impossible**" to the attitude and commitment Paul says the ambitious and acceptable Christian is to have in fighting for Christ in **2 Cor.10:4-5**: "*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish [the] strongholds [OF TERRORISTS]. 5 We demolish (false) arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*"
- B. It is to our MINDS that God appeals with His gospel and THAT'S WHY Satan is trying so hard to influence our thinking! **Mark 16:15-16**; **Rom.1:16**; **1 Cor.1:18, 21**- "*For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.... 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.*" [**By the utter simplicity of it!**]
1. The final decision **LIES WITHIN EACH OF US, FOR OURSELVES!** No one else can make your decision for you. Your **allegiance**, your **commitment**, your **obedience** is determined by **YOU ALONE!**
 2. God will give you the strength to make decisions compatible with His will --- if you only want Him to help! **Jno.14:6**; **Heb.5:8-9**; **10:9-10**- "*then He said, "Here I am, God to do what You want Me to do ... Because Jesus Christ did what God wanted Him to do, we are all made clean from sin by the offering that He made of His own body, once and for all!"* **Phil.2:5**.

IV. WHAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE ABOUT SATAN INFILTRATING CONGREGATIONS [viz. our churches] ?

- A. Here is the one place that ought to be the bastion of security ... and **yet even here, because of our humanity**, Satan's presence is often felt!
- B. It is extremely clear, and **WE MUST UNDERSTAND, HIS PRESENCE IS NOT** WITHOUT INVITATION, and his **influence** is **felt** and **seen** and is **destructive** in many different ways!

1. Though **WE** [*the people*] invite him in and **WE** [*the people*] are the personification of his presence --- **WE** [*the people*] are **the focus of his terrorist activities** within congregations of God's family!
 2. It is **because of Satan's influence** that God's people will turn against one another to **"bite and devour"**- **Gal.5:15**- *"But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another!"*
 3. We feel his presence when we are tempted to **compromise truth** for the sake of convenience; or to sacrifice **moral** or **ethical behavior** on the altar of personal lust or personal exaltation!
- C. It ISN'T that Satan is trying to block Jesus Christ or religious activities from our minds ... **QUITE THE CONTRARY:** because his most effective **TERRORIST ACTIVITY** is just to get us to **COMPROMISE OUR CONVICTIONS!**
1. In the mind of Satan, it's O.K. to *KNOW* what **WORKS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS** God wants of this congregation ... but just **MINIMIZE IT** by **EXCUSING ourselves**, one way or another: **No ability ... no finances ... no one is really interested ... If no one else is going to, then NEITHER AM !!**
 2. He would have us ignore that **Christ**, and **His Truth**, and **His Kingdom** are to be the **focus** of our lives, that we're to **"SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS"** --- **Matt.6:33**.
 3. He would have us attach no significance to the fact that *"we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession"* -- **1 Pet.2:9**. When we quit being obsessed with **WHAT A BLESSING our brethren are**, or that **WE ARE THE FAMILY OF GOD**, we're **HELPING that old terrorist PLANT HIS BOMBS OF DOOM!**

CONCLUSION:

Let's be completely honest: SATAN WANTS YOU AND ME! He wants us because we claim to be the children of God. he wants us because we'll probably bring someone with us ... either a mate or a child. He wants **US** because the greatest damage is done to the kingdom of God when the terrorist's bomb is planted from WITHIN --- by someone who SINGS of devotion on the Lord's day, then lives in such a way as to DESTROY THE INFLUENCE OF JESUS CHRIST!

Since **"THERE IS NO PLACE TO HIDE"** from him, then, **WHAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SATAN?** Do you really realize that **we don't have to hide?** Hear the calming ASSURANCE OF JEHOVAH TO HIS PEOPLE: *"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you!"* - **James 4:7-8**. **And that, my friend, is a power before which Satan cannot stand!**