

Chapter Ten – satan's Fall

Testing The Spirits: satan's Fall

**Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but test the spirits to see whether they are from God;
because many false prophets have gone out into the world.**

I John 4:1

I. Beloved, do not believe every spirit... because many false prophets have gone out into the world

A. satan's fall lays the doctrinal groundwork for the false prophets and spirits in the world today:

1. In Luke 10:18 Jesus makes a startling statement, *"And He said to them, 'I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.'*" Thus we learn that satan, the demon king of his satanic realm, once existed in heaven and fell from this lofty position.
 - a. Jesus was a witness to satan's fall.
 - b. The Bible clearly tells both of satan's lofty position and of his fall from heaven.
 - c. I John 3:8 tells us this occurred in the earliest times "beginning".

2. Revelation 12:1 - 9 , 12, 13 This is a difficult passage which weaves together both doctrine and prophecy. From it though we learn a number of truths concerning satan's fall.
 - a. Verses one and two depict a woman in child birth who, from verses five and six seem to represent Mary and the baby Jesus from birth to their flight to Egypt.
 - b. In verse three and four a *"great red dragon"* appears who sweeps *"a third of the stars of heaven and threw them all to earth."* From this passage it is only conjecture as to what the dragon and the stars symbolize.
 - c. In verse nine, it is revealed that this dragon symbolizes satan and that the stars of heaven symbolize the fallen angels who went with him. *"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."*
 - d. Again in verses 12 & 13 we learn that the dragon thrown to the earth is the devil. *"... Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child."*
 - e. The revealed truths from this passage depict the fall of satan whereby he fell to earth bringing with him a third of the angelic kingdom.
 - f. How many fallen angels, now referred to as demons, were swept away with him we do not know. We do know that the number of those left are referred to in Revelation 5:11 as *"And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,"* Since those which are left are "myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands" we can assume that satan now rules over an incomprehensibly large demonic kingdom.

3. Isaiah 14:12 - 16 Appears to be a passage which gives us insight into the fall of satan. Prophetic passages can be very difficult. There are a number which seem to follow two tracks, one of immediate consequence and one of future or eternal consequence. This seems to be one of them. From this passages there appears to be a number of insights into satan's position before and after the fall.
 - a. He is said to have been the *"star of morning, son of the dawn"* (vs. 12)
 - b. Yet from this lofty position it is lamented, *"you have fallen from heaven" and "you have been cut down to the earth"* (vs. 12)
 - c. The cause of his fall is pride (vs. 13, 14)
 - 1.) *"You have said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven, I will raise my throne above the stars of God...'"*
 - 2.) *"I will make myself like the Most High"*
 - 3.) satan's downfall then was his unwillingness to be one of the greatest angels but rather aspired to the position of God Himself.
 - d. The result of this fall (vs. 15) - *"Never-the-less you will be thrust down to Sheol..."* Here satan's ultimate fate is established. Rather than ruling in Hell, as depicted by Dante's Inferno and so many classic pieces of literature, satan will be himself suffering the judgment of God will the rest of those consigned to Hell.
 - 1.) This theme is repeated in Isaiah 24:21 *"So it will happen in that day, That the Lord will punish the host of heaven, on high, And the kings of the earth, on earth."*
 - 2.) And again, Isaiah 27:1 *"I In that day the Lord will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent..."*

4. Ezekiel 28:12 - 17 Is probably the most classic of the prophetic passages which describe both satan and his fall.
 - a. satan described (vs. 12 - 17)
 - 1.) *" You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty..."*
 - 2.) *"You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering:... On the day that you were created They were prepared.*
 - 3.) *"You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there.*
 - 4.) *You were on the holy mountain of God;*
 - 5.) *You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.*
 - 6.) *"You were blameless in your ways*
 - 7.) *O covering Cherub from the midst of the stones of fire*
 - b. The cause of his fall (vs. 15 - 17)
 - 1.) *"...Until unrighteousness was found in you*
 - 2.) *"... You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned;..."*
 - 3.) *"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;*
 - 4.) *You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor...*
 - c. The results of his fall (vs. 16 & 17)
 - 1.) *"...Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God.*
 - 2.) *And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.*
 - 3.) *I cast you to the ground.*

5. Ephesians 6:11 & 12 satan's present position on earth.

- a. satan schemes against the people of God, ***“that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”*** (vs. 11)
 - b. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, (vs. 12)
 - c. ***but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*** (vs. 12)
 - d. ***...the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*** (I John 5:19)
6. Revelation satan’s ultimate destiny
 - a. MAT 25:41 ***“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;***
 - b. REV 20:10 ***And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***
 7. From these passages we see then that satan was a lofty angelic being of great beauty, that he became filled with sin, aspired to the very throne of God as a result fell from his position of perfection, was cast to earth and took angels with him in his rebellion. Here on earth he rules a kingdom made up of fallen angels called demons. As such satan awaits the ultimate judgment of God where he and all his demons will be cast into Hell with he unregenerate and tortured there for eternity by God.
 8. Knowing this about satan and his demons we realize that when dealing with the issue of testing the spirits we must realize that not all spiritual phenomenon is of the Holy Spirit. When it comes to God the Father, satan does not have an good track record. Inevitably his idols prove to be powerless. Again, in his deceptions concerning God the Son, satan’s imitations invariably reveal their sinful side, Mercedes, women, bank accounts begin to come to the surface. When satan imitates God the Holy Spirit he is in his natural element and we are out of ours. We are not naturally spiritual beings, rather of flesh and he is. Thus it is not surprising that the church is most easily duped in this area. This first section of the study has then sought to lay the doctrinal groundwork for our understanding of the nature of the spirits we are to test, the seriousness of this subject and quite frankly the fact that we as men are simply not spiritual enough to discern without testing the nature of spiritual and miraculous events. You are simply not that spiritual.

B. What satan is not and does not do

1. What satan is not
 - a. Equal and opposite of God
Hebrews 1:1 – 14

Heb 1:3-8

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, ‘Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee’? And again, ‘I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me’?

6 *And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."*

7 *And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire."*

8 But of the Son He says, "*Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.*"

Heb 1:13-14

13 *But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet"?*

14 *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*

b. The spirit (spirits) of evil people

Heb 9:27

27 *And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,*

Rev 20:14-15

14 *And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.*

15 *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Luke 16:26

26 *'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'*

c. Our superior

Heb 1:14

14 *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*

1 Pet 1:10-12

10 *As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry,*

11 *seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.*

12 *It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look.*

Rev 19:10

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Rev 22:8-9

8 And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

9 And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book; worship God."

d. More powerful than Christians

James 4:7

7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

I John 4:4

4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

e. Able to increase his power over Christians by amassing a critical "spiritual mass"

I Kings 18:24-29

24 "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people answered and said, "That is a good idea."

25 So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made.

27 And it came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened."

28 So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them.

29 And it came about when midday was past, that they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

2. What satan does not do
 - a. Control or run Hell

Rev 14:10-11

10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Have free reign of events on earth

Job 1:9-10

9 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

10 "Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

- b. Not only are there no verses in the Bible which speak of fearing satan or his demons but just the opposite is true, we are commanded not to fear.

Rev 2:10

10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- c. satan has nothing to say or offer Christians
1. We are forbidden from speaking to satan or his demons
 2. We are forbidden from interacting with satan or his demons
 3. We are forbidden from learning or gaining information from satan or his demons
 4. We are forbidden from passing this information along to others.

1 Tim 4:1-3

1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

C. Conclusion I John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

1. satan and the fallen angels which followed him are real and active in the world today.
2. They are of a spiritual nature and as a result most at home in spiritual and mystical deceptions.
3. Because of this we are commanded to test all spiritual occurrences.
 - a. The first biblical response to any miracle, to any mystical event, to any spiritual event, to any spirit or angel, to any dream or vision is skepticism.
 - b. We do not accept it as from God
 - c. We do not accept it as from satan
 - d. We simply accept it as a spiritual/mystical/miraculous event
 - e. Then we test it.
4. The testing of spiritual occurrences is not a lack of faith but rather an act of faith.
5. Man's senses are physical and therefore not adequate for the testing of the spirits. As a result we look to God's Word for the testing of the spirits.

Bible Study Preparation

I. Read the following passages and make a list of the attributes which satan had before his fall.

A. Isaiah 14:12 – 16

Verse

satan before his fall

B. Ezekiel 28:12 – 17

Verse

satan before his fall

II. According to I John 3:8, where in terms of history does the Word of God place satan's fall?

III. According to Luke 10:18, who was a witness of satan's fall?

IV. Read Revelation 12:1 – 13

A. According to 1, 2, 5 & 11 – who is the child being spoken of?

B. In verses 1, 2, 5, & 6 – who is the woman?

C. In verses 3, 4, 7 – 9 – who is the dragon?

- D. When he falls, who does he take with him?
- E. What do we learn in these passages about satan and his these fallen angels?
- F. What further insight does Ephesians 6:12 give us into the workings of these fallen angels?

V. According to Revelation 14:10 & 11, who is in charge of Hell?

- A. Many believe that satan will be in charge of Hell, torturing those who are sent there. How does Matthew 25:41 speak to this erroneous view?
- B. According to Revelation 20:10...
 1. is satan torturing people in hell?
 2. What is the nature of satan's experience as it pertains to hell?
 3. How is satan and hell presented by the media, by the world and by satan himself?
 4. How is the biblical teaching concerning satan and hell different from that which is presented by the world and the media?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD*JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: The Fall of satan****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 10:18; I John 3:18****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?****Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 12:1 - 13****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?****Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 14:12 - 16****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?****Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

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