

The Question of Good and Evil, God and Satan

Job 1:6-12

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." 8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" 9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

The book of Job is an very interesting and intriguing book. It has stood since the dawn of Biblical literature as a glimpse into the unknown dealings of the spiritual world.

Here we have Job but he is only here because he has exemplified himself as a follower of YAHWEH. And we see what that will get him.

Even though Satan is mentioned in the first chapters of the book yet he seems to be the instigator of the events that follow. But who is Satan? Where does he come from? Is he even real? What does he have against Job?

This passage along with some other select passages in the Bible helps answer these questions.

Is there really good and evil or is it just a matter of preference?

Once in this nation we knew that there was good and evil and we even knew which was which.

But we have a new world view today. An intellectual view. No longer locked into the "religious superstitions" of the past.

We seem to go in cycles. Before world war one the world told itself that everyone was good and that we just needed to understand each other better.

Before world war two we thought that if we just let the mad-man have what he asked for then we would all live in peace. Peace in out time. It sounded so good. Didn't everyone want peace? Evidently not, for millions died.

And then in the 60's the nutty professors in our universities were preaching, "better red than dead." We were told that we did not have the best nation, the best government and that communism was just as good as ours if not better.

But along came a president that was not afraid to call evil evil, even though some thought he was off his rocker. But if there was evil, his idea was that we needed a strong defense. We all know how that turned out. The iron curtain fell and we were the only world super power. And much to the consternation of the liberals we did not use our super power to bring what we saw as evil under control.

Instead we replaced a conservative government with a much more liberal one. And the first thing we did was to get rid of our defense since there were no more evil people to worry about. That ended with 9/11 and once again we found that there was evil in the world after all.

But Job makes it clear that there is good and there is evil. There is a good and merciful God and there is a devil that is opposite in almost every way from God. Let us look at our passage.

I. But who is Satan?

A. The Bible really tells us a lot about Satan.

1. He is active and working in every book.
2. Sometimes he is mentioned by name.
3. At other times we just see the affect of what he is doing.

B. The meaning of the name.

1. Satan means accuser, it is the sounding of the Hebrew word here in Job.
2. The Greek word is Devil and also means accuser.
 - a. διαβολος, diabolos, dee-ab'-ol-os
 - b. Re 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

C. A leader of angels.

1. Rev 12:3 . . . and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven,

D. Opposed to God.

1. 2 Thes 2:3 . . . the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

II. Where did he come from?

A. He was created along with the other angels before the material creation.

1. Sons of God - a word used of angels Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

B. He was created very powerful and beautiful.

1. Lucifer means light bringer, "the morning star": Isa 14:12
2. Eze 28:12 . . . 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of

perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

3. He is called prince of this world.
 - a. John 12:31 (NKJV) 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
4. The god of this world.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV) 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
 - b. Lu 4:6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish."
5. Prince of the power of the air.
 - a. Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV) 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

C. He became proud and rebelled against God.

1. Isa 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

III. Is he even real?

- A. He is not physical but he is real.
 1. Jesus referred to him as a person.

- B. He is not just an idea to represent evil.
- C. He influences many people.
 1. Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
 2. Mt 13:19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.
 3. Joh 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

IV. What does he have against Job?

- A. The more one is like God the more Satan wants him destroyed.
 1. Satan opposes all that is good and just.
 2. He is evil through and through.
 3. And those who follow him can also be.
- B. Look how much Satan hated Job and us as well.
 1. When Satan afflicts Job look how he does it.
 2. He takes all that Job has in one fell swoop.
 3. But he is not satisfied with that but afflict Job in his health as well.
 4. He is a destroyer.
 5. As long as we are not aware of Satan's power and purpose we are ill prepared to deal with him.
 6. 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
 7. Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

V. The end of the devil

- A. Re 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.