

Satan Bound

Rev. 20:1-3

1/27/21

Here Satan is called by four different names—"Dragon", "Serpent", "Devil", and "Satan". From these and from the fact that he can be bound, we see that he is a created being, because you cannot bind an "influence" or a "principle of evil". While Satan is the "prince of the powers of the air" (Eph. 2:2), and the "god of this age" (II Cor. 4:4), and the "ruler of the powers of darkness" (Eph. 6:11-12), and whose position is so exalted that even Michael the Archangel dare not insult him (Jude 9), and while he has great power and influence, yet he is not omnipotent, for one angel and he is not called a strong angel, is able to seize him and bind him. This appears to be same angel as in Rev. 9:1-2 who seems to be the custodian of the key of the bottomless pit.

In II Pet. 2:4 and Jude 6 we find that there are angels who have sinned and are now reserved in chains in darkness unto the judgment of the Great Day (White Throne Judgment). The binding of Satan reveals the fact that God can stop his evil work when He is ready and that without sending the armies of Heaven to do so. When the time has come God will empower and command a single angel to seize, handcuff, and imprison him, just as an officer of the law with a warrant arrests and locks up a criminal. Satan is not cast at this time into the Lake of Fire where the beast and false prophet are because he will first be loosed at the end of the Millennium.

Satan: Derived from Hebrew word meaning adversary.

Devil: Derived from Greek word meaning without light.

Doctrine is a collection of truths that are to be studied and followed if appropriate. We, as Christians, are to understand the truths in the Bible as concerning many doctrines. Some of them are the doctrines of the Trinity, of the Son, of the Father, of the Holy Spirit, of man, of the Church, of sin, of salvation, of Satan, of angels, of the Bible, and of prophecy. We will attempt to look into what the Bible teaches us about Satan.

The existence of Satan as it pertains to society standards. Most drawings of him has a picture of a mythical two-horned, fork-tailed creature dressed in bright red busily pitching coal into the furnaces of hell. Satan's existence has been denied in many pulpits for some time now. This concept of "the old devil" and also the "new birth" has been ridiculed openly for decades. Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr is on record stating this: "It is unwise for Christians to claim any knowledge of either the furniture of heaven or the temperature of hell." Bishop Pike: "I reject an angelic sky-high heaven or a devilish red-hot hell." A survey was done in the Fifties working with 5,000 clergymen of whom 73% ridiculed the concept of a personal devil of any sort. An article was published entitled "If I Were the Devil" which quotes: "If I were the devil, the first thing I would do is to deny my own existence! This strange approach is, of course, the absolute opposite of that used by God who desires, perhaps above all else, to be fully believed in! (Heb. 11:6). But this is not so with Satan. The disciple of doubt seems to thrive best when he is underestimated, ignored, or denied.

We will now examine what the Bible says about his existence, origin, personality, names, activities, locations, limitations, victory over and strength.

His existence is declared by the Bible. We have seen how Satan's existence is doubted, denied, or downplayed in the world of men. The devil is mentioned in seven Old Testament books: Gen.; I Chron.; Job (12x.); Psa. ; Isa. ; Ezek. and Zech. He is mentioned in 19 New Testament books. Some are: Mat. 4:1; Mark 5:15; Luke 22:3; I Jn. 3:8; Rom. 16:20; I Pet. 5:8; James 4:7; and Jude 9. Jesus speaks of him: Mt. 4:10; Mt. 16:23; 25:41; Jn. 8:44; Jn. 6:70; and Luke 22:31 are a few. From this it must be stated that to deny his existence would be to deny both the statements of the Scriptures and the testimony of Jesus.

His origin and also his fall are recorded in Ezekiel. The prophet predicts the coming judgment upon the city of Tyre in chapters 26, 27, and the first part of 28. This has already been fulfilled, for the city was sacked by Nebuchadnezzar in 573 B.C., and later destroyed by Alexander in 332 B.C. In the second half of chapter 28 the prophet is directed beyond the earthly scene and describes for us the origin and judgment of a vile and nonhuman creature. (Ezek. 28:12-19).

It will be good for a detailed study of this scripture be done. Let us look at verse 17 "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty". Here, it appears, is recorded the first sin. Paul addresses this truth in I Tim. 3:1-7. He is warning against the ordination of an immature pastoral candidate. In verse 6 he states the condemnation that befell Satan which was pride.

His origin and fall is also spoken of in Isa. 14:12-14. There we find the five foolish "I wills" of the devil.

What does the Bible say about the personality of Satan? 1) He has intelligence. (II Cor. 2:11; devices= plans, methods, or tricks with a particular aim; II Cor. 11:3 corrupts minds from the simplicity of Christ.)

2) He has a memory. Mat. 4:1-11. The devil quoted Scripture to Jesus. (verse 6). Rev. 12:12 tells of Satan coming on the scene of the Great Tribulation knowing he has a short season. He knows this from Dan. 9. 3) He has a will. II Tim. 2:26 4) He has emotions. Luke 22:31 (desires) I Tim. 3:6 (pride) Rev. 12:12 (wrath). 4) Organizational. The Bible tells us of his synagogues, doctrines, and deep things. I Tim. 4:1 Rev. 2:9; Rev. 2:24. Rev. 12:4 tells us he organized and led the first rebellion against God. 1/3 of angels came with him. Rev. 20:7-9 tells us he will organize and lead the last rebellion against God. In Job the devil is systematic in his labor against Job. Eph. 6:11,12 tells us he has an organized army at his disposal.

Now we will examine the names and titles given to Satan. This looking into them will allow a much clearer insight to this perverted ex-prince of paradise and his evil character. 1) Satan (adversary) This is his most commonly used name. (52x) 2) Devil (slanderer) used 35x. 3) Prince of the power of the air. (Eph. 2:2). 4) God of this age. (II Cor. 4:4) 5) King of death. (Heb. 2:14.) 5) Prince of this world. (Jn. 12:31). 6) Ruler of darkness. (Eph. 6:12). 7) Leviathan (one who dwells in the sea of humanity) Isa. 27:1. Job 41:14-34 (a king over all the children of pride). 8) Lucifer: Light bearer, shining one. Isa. 14:12. (the son of the morning). 9) Dragon: Rev. 12:7. 10) Deceiver: Rev. 20:10. 11) Apollyon (destroyer) Rev. 9:11. 12) Beelzebub (prince of demons) Mat. 12:24. 13) Belial (vileness, ruthlessness) II Cor. 6:14. 14) The wicked one. Mat. 13:38; I Jn. 5:19. 15) The Tempter I Thess. 3:5. In Gen. 3 we find the first crime against humanity in enticing Eve to disobey God. 16) The Accuser of the Brethren. Rev. 12:10.

17) An angel of light. II Cor. 11:14,15. "His ministers." This explains the rise of many false cults of today. How polished and popular his ministers often become. How cleverly they can distort and twist the Word of God. 18) Father of Lies. Jn. 8:44. Lied to Eve in the Garden. Gen. 3:4,5. 19) Murderer. "from the beginning". He inspired Cain to slaughter his brother Abel. 20) The enemy. Mat. 13:39. 21) A roaring lion. (I Pet. 5:8). As the lion is king of beasts, so is Satan, king over demons. Both are powerful and ruthless concerning their victims.

V2. "Laid hold": Gen. 3:15; Isa. 27:1; Isa. 49:24-25; Mat. 8:29; Mark 5:7; Rom. 16:20; Heb. 2:14. These are Scriptures which speak of this event of the final accounts of war between good and evil.

V3. "Loosed for a season": John doesn't say why God once again releases Satan, but it is part of God's plan for judging the world. Perhaps it is to expose those who rebel against God in their hearts and to confirm those who are truly faithful to God. Whatever the reason, Satan's release results in the final destruction of all evil. (verses 12-15).