

Activities of Satan

Rev. 20:2

Feb. / 3/ 21

In our attempt to understand the "whole counsel" of God we are examining the doctrine "teachings" of Satan as revealed to us in the Bible. Last study we looked at the existence of, origin of, personality of, and names of Satan. In this study we will focus on the activities of our adversary.

As God's people we may become lax in our service to Him but let us not for one moment become deceived into thinking Satan is backing off on his doings. Whatever he may be labeled lazy is not on the list.

In Isa. 14 we find he wanted to ascend to the throne of God and occupy it. The result was he failed and was removed from his place. Now we find he is remaining vigilant in his work of imitating God. In I Jn. 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knoweth Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doeth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." God offers freely to all repenting sinners that priceless privilege which Satan desperately and unsuccessfully has longed for, namely, to be like God. The statement has been made that "imitation is the most sincere form of flattery". The strange character of Satan is that he hates God on the one hand and possesses an obsession to be like God.

We will now examine 13 ways that Satan imitates God.

The first is he has a false trinity. (Rev. 13:2; 16:13) The true trinity consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Satan mimics this in that he pretends to be the Father, the antichrist is likened to the Son, and the false prophet is pretending to be the Holy Spirit. 2) He has his synagogues. (Rev. 2:9) The sad fact is that today what is being portrayed as churches is filled with pulpits where the Bible, Blood of Christ, and the Blessed Hope that is the result of that victory are never mentioned. Dr. Donald Barnhouse: "When searching for the devil one should not forget to check behind the pulpit." 3) He has his doctrines. (I Tim. 4:1) Some of them are: free love, abortion on demand, homosexuality, salvation by works, evolution, and traditions of man. 4) He has his mysteries. (Rev. 2:24, II Thess. 2:7). 5) He has his throne. (Rev. 2:13, 13:2). 6) He has his kingdom. (Luke 4:6, Jn. 14:30, I Jn. 5:19). 7) He has his worshippers. (Rev. 13:4). 8) He has his angels. (Rev. 12:7, verse 4 of this chapter teaches us 1/3 of the angels in heaven) 9) He has his ministers. (II Cor. 11:15) The "God is dead" movement was started in a college by a professor claiming to be a man of God. 10) He has his miracles. (II Thess. 2:9) Jesus exposes the people who pretend to be doing things in His name. (Mat. 7:21-23). 11) He has his sacrifices. (I Cor. 10:20). Many, I am afraid, have sacrificed their very soul on the altar of Satan's pleasures. They have traded their "birthright" for a temporary idol. They have traded the eternal gifts for a temporary "bowl" of pleasure. 12) He has his fellowship. (I Cor. 10:20). 13) He has his armies. (Isa. 24:21).

Satan constantly is in the activity of sowing tares among God's wheat. (Mat. 13:24-30, 36-43). The mature (Spirit) fruit separates.

Satan instigates false doctrine. (I Tim. 4:1-3) Whatever feels good to the blinded creation of God he will supply.

Satan perverts the Word of God. The main way he accomplishes this is by taking it out of context. (Mat. 4:6, Gen. 3:1-4). 2) He supplies lies to allow it to be misinterpreted. We must let the plain sense of Scripture be the main sense. 3) He works hard at getting misunderstanding of doctrines in the Bible by overstressing one side and ignoring the other side. One example would be that of "works". Another would be "mercy and justice". Another would be the matter of "free will". 4) He loves to under stress certain doctrines. One of which he is constantly laboring against is the "local congregation". While the Mega church movement and the activities of mass media individuals have gained footing within the "faith" community there are vital issues with this approach of "living for Jesus". The "well known" individual will not be available to be any help during times of death, family issues, or personal encouragement. Neither does the "common" person know of the lifestyle of those in such limelight. God's plan is for Believers to be able to interact one with another with a "called" Pastor as the "under-shepherd" available within the confines of their community. To quote once again from the article "If I were the Devil": "Then I would turn to that most despised and deadly institution of all—the local church! I would continue to attack it from outside (just to keep in practice), but would concentrate the bulk of my evil efforts from within. "The church is dead" would become my creed and cry. If I were the devil I would do my utmost to convince professing Christians that the local church is finished! Not weak, not ineffective; but dead and decaying! I would encourage them to dig a big hole, carve an epitaph, and bury it as quietly and quickly as possible. Christianity could then proceed to new glories where cell groups would replace Sunday nights and sermons would be set aside for buzz sessions."

Other doctrines he undervalues are the institution of marriage, gender creation (male and female), the Bible as the only source of God's revealed truth, the qualifications of being a Pastor and Evangelists, and many others. Be sure to get this understanding clear Satan is not afraid of "using" the Bible. In fact he delights in using it to misinterpret or mangle it in some fashion. The proof is found in the abundance of cults in our land. Their followers can quote quickly certain "special" words from the Bible to support their false beliefs. Much like the spots on television that lure you into buying something that you really don't want or can use these use quick statements to lure unlearned individuals into their web of lies.

He hinders the works of God's servants. (I Thess. 2:18).

Satan interferes in the interaction of the Believer with God at times. (Dan. 10:12).

He blinds men to the truth. (II Cor. 4:4) The Bible is understood by Study with the aid of the Holy Spirit. It is spiritually discerned. Satan will work on the weak fleshly mind to place false hope.

He steals the Word of God from human hearts. (Mat. 13:19).

He accuses Christians before God. (Job 1:7-12; 2:3-6; Zech. 3:1-4; Rev. 12:9,10) These verses inform us concerning one of Satan's most treacherous hatchet jobs, that of bad-mouthing believers. In fact, this was one of several key reasons why the crucified and resurrected Christ had to ascend back to heaven that he might function as our divine defense lawyer. (Luke 22:3; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:33, 34)

Satan lays snares for men. (II Tim. 2:26; I Tim. 3:7) An old hymn says "when the danger least thou fearest, then the devil's snare is nearest."

Satan tempts. (Mat. 4:1; Eph. 6:11). This means he tempts God's creation to do evil.

He afflicts. (Job 2:7; Luke 13:16; II Cor. 12:7; Acts 10:38) We should note that these are believers in these verses. Satan is able to oppress the Child of God in the mental and physical realms. Sometimes God allows this to happen to purify His child as in the case of Job and at other times to punish a believer for his sin. (I Cor. 5:1-5)

Satan deceives. (Rev. 12:9; 20:8, 10). Self—deception can be deadly. To whom do we cling for our well—being? Rom. 3:3-4 "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written. 'that thou mightiest be justified in thy sayings, and mightiest overcome when thou are judged'". Satan has been very effective in causing people to believe they can work their way into heaven.

Satan undermines the sanctity of the home. (I Cor. 7:3-5) Live by the statutes of God within His plans for marriage. Satan will look for every foothold possible to break-up a home. Marriage is an institution originated by God. (Gen. 2:20-25) The woman at the well is a prime example of how people can get entrapped into multiply relationships. She had five husbands and was in a relationship with another man and not married to him. Notice how Jesus leads her to what she needed for her soul. We must guard our eyes, minds, and hearts in this area of our life. Bathsheba's may be found if we stray from our post as did David.

Satan is active in prompting all of God's creation, saints and sinners, to disobey God. 1) It was Satan who caused David to disobey God by numbering Israel. (I Chron. 21:10). 2) It was Satan who caused Judas to betray Christ. (Jn. 13:2). 3) It was Satan who caused Peter to rebuke Christ and later to deny Him. (Mat. 16:22-23; Jn. 13:38). 4) It was Satan who caused Ananias to lie to the Holy Spirit. (Acts 5:3).

As we have discovered in these verses Satan is very active in the course of the life of the creation of God. He blow it and is no longer at the throne of God. He has one agenda now and that is to get as many as he can to also mess-up. God places in our life span good and evil, light and darkness, and life or death. The gift of God is ours if we will accept it in the framework of His design. It is that very truth that Satan works so hard to disguise, re-write, and diminish. May we try the spirits and seek the face of God relying upon His Spirit and His Word to be our standard.

