

TOPIC III

SATAN - LITERARY ERRORS ABOUT HIS ORIGIN AND OTHER DOCTRINES

Part VII

G. Why were Satan and the evil spirits/ demons created? (Continuing)

Answer, to be used when necessary to bring as many to salvation as possible and to bring ultimate glory to God. This is a doctrinal statement with which I agree. But it doesn't answer the questions we often have in regard to this topic.

Theologians for centuries have stated that all things were created and accomplished to ultimately bring glory to God. Some passages upon which this could be based are:

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)

And, David's prayer,

"So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. "Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. "Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name." (I Chronicles 29:10-13)

And,

25: Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26: but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 16:25-27)

And,

3: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4: who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5: to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen." (Galatians 1:3-5)

And,

I Timothy 1:17-18, 17: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 18: The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen."

And,

II Timothy 4:18, "The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen."

And,

Hebrews 13:20-21, 20: "Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, 21: equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen."

But we still want to know the "whys" and "hows" this is accomplished when we see and experience such chaos around us.

First, not all the questions we might have can be resolved in a one hour session after we have endured years of indoctrination from various sources who disagree and promote their own point of view, or that of a church or denomination. I may not express the theme as well as could be done, but I will try to get the basics across in some way. A huge topic to be sure.

Now, to review, Satan's nature is to deceive, lie, manipulate, and tempt. Satan works in the mind of hearers and readers through logical and reasonable statements that seem acceptable and true to people, but are in fact deceptions. He also appeals to the worst of mankind, self-centered needs, desires, fears, and survival instincts. He is the prince and ruler of this world. The world and its plethora of media is a perfect means to keep hammering out these lies and temptations. If he can get people to believe his message and think "It's all about me," he has reproduced Genesis 3 once again.

His lies permeate all religions, and he loves religion as his messengers, even unsuspectingly, teach or preach his lies and deceptions. He loves to manipulate, cast blame on others and especially God, sowing the seeds of doubt and confusion among people.

He attempts to do this to mankind through the avenue of the mind and the self-centered desires of the heart. People can say all sorts of things that appear to make them seem genuine and "Christian." But as the Lord said, "They honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me."

Jesus made this point Himself,

"So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or *whether* I speak from Myself. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him." (John 7:16-18)

The true condition of the mind and the level of the self-centered desires of the heart, or, the true spiritual and godly condition of the heart can be measured by one

or more of several "experiences." The outcome will reveal the inner reality of the individual.

One experience is the lie of Satan as opposed to the truth of God's word.

Another is the tragic or unfortunate circumstances people endure.

And a third is persecution.

All of these "instruments" are the consequences of the choice and actions of people that God actually uses for their own good, but most often people place the blame on God, Satan or someone else. From the beginning, mankind has chosen his own way for whatever reasons that are buried deep in one's heart. Most will justify and defend their thoughts and actions. Most feel they stand in good stead before God while at the same time noting they don't need or want Him interfering in their lives. So, most choose self over God, and expect that God will understand that, though they have disregarded Him and all He has said and done, He will warmly welcome them in to His heaven

Though the heart of man is deceitfully wicked above all things, most feel they are actually "good" down deep. This stands in stark contrast to what God has said. So rather than repent and be sorrowful over their true sinful self, they gloat and take pride in their righteousness and this cuts them off from mercy- something they don't feel they need. So they fit into the category of Matthew 7:13-14 where Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

At the same time, God wishes no one to perish. His love sent His Son to pay the price we deserve for our sin. The good news is that sin has been wiped away for all mankind forever. So now the issue is whether man will choose life or death - God or self. One means to prompt man to consider a choice other than self, can be seen in the creating of Satan by God. In his lies, Satan tests the free self-will of man and exposes man to know both good and evil and to choose between them. The goal is to reveal to man the full nature of his heart and soul and the power he has been given to choose.

This is not an easy task as "...the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5) Romans 1 & 2 makes this clear as well.

As we have seen, God even uses the evil that men do and the evil spirits to bring man to his knees in order to save them if possible. He also uses love and truth to do so. Even Paul wrote, "But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them. (Romans 11:13-14)

And,

"To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. (I Corinthians 9:20-22)

Whatever it takes.

So love and truth stand in opposition to self-centered pride and the lie.

In the Book of Job, the second experience is dramatized for us, "... the tragic or unfortunate circumstances people endure." The actual key to the point of the book is found in chapter 1:9, where Satan is portrayed asking God, "Does Job fear God for nothing?" In other words, is Job's faith in God only because he has been fortunate or is it genuine and will stand up regardless of his circumstances? Is he a "fair weather" believer only?

The response of many when things go bad is that of Job's wife, "Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"

Job's answer is a challenge to the viewer, reader or listener, "But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips."

And of course, the real intended focus of this is the viewer, reader or listener, not Job.

The test of true faith and genuine trust in God can come in times like this.

Faith and confidence stand in opposition tragedy and unfortunate circumstances including persecution and ridicule.

All of these reveal the true condition of one's heart and belief to the person himself. That is where evil will be found. What will the choice be? Man caused all the evil...so staying with the evil of man will produce heaven? This is the logic of the darkened mind. What will shake it loose?

As to persecution, we have discussed this before. And we remember the consistent counsel of the apostles reflected in I Peter 5:4-11,

4: "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5: You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7: casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 8: Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9: But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 10: After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. 11: To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen."

And who can forget the glorious passage...

"Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, **"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35-39

