

TOPIC III

SATAN - LITERARY ERRORS ABOUT HIS ORIGIN AND OTHER DOCTRINES

Part V

(A.) So where does he first appear, (B.) How did he come to be, (C.) What is his nature (and more) and (D.) The spiritual realm; (E.) How does he work? (F.) Whose authority is he and all the spirits under? (G.) Why was he and the evil spirits or demons created? (H.) "What of free will?" And, how do we discern the truth and avoid his influence?

D. Now the "spirit" aspect. In Ephesians 2:1-2 Paul writes,

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."

Here we have both the royal title and the fact that Satan is a "spirit." The word "spirit" is "pneuma" meaning breath or wind. No physical form and it is paralleled with "air." This is demonstrated by the apostle as he writes,

11: Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12: For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (literally - "heavenlies") (Ephesians 6:11-12.)

"Schemes of the 'devil'" - We will look at his principal means of operation in a moment.

These last two verses lead us into the next fact, that Satan is a spirit being, not angel. (Reread) note: "...spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies"

(Now, more verses about "spirits")

Matthew 12:43-45;

43: "Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find *it*. 44: "Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds *it* unoccupied, swept, and put in order. 45: "Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation."

Note: An "unclean spirit" is aligned in other places with "demon."¹ The word "unclean" indicates a "spirit being" whose nature is comprised of things that God has deemed filthy, or unholy, especially spiritual things.

Mark 5:1-8,

1: "They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. 2: When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, 3: and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; 4: because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. 5: Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. 6: Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; 7: and shouting with a loud voice, he *said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" 8: For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

Mark 9:25-27,

25: When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again." 26: After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and *the boy* became so much like a corpse

¹ Luke 8:27; 9:42; compare Mark 1:23-27 and Luke 4:33-35; Mark 3:11 and Luke 4:41; Matthew 17:14-18 with Mark 9:17-27, etc.

that most of *them* said, "He is dead!" 27: But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up."

Acts 16:16-18,

16: "It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17: Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." 18: She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment."

E. How does he work? - The principle way in which he works:

II Corinthians 4:1-6;

1: Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2: but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3: And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4: in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5: For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6: For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

II Corinthians 11:3-4,

3: But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of *devotion* to Christ. 4: For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.

I John 4:1-6;

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. 2: By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3: and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 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. 5: They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. 6: We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

Luke 22:2-3;

2: "The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people. 3: And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. "

What does this mean? Here is the same picture in John.

John 13:27;

27: "After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." 28: Now no one of those reclining *at the table* knew for what purpose He had said this to him." (The disciples saw nothing.)

What does this mean and what happened? Perhaps John 13:2 and Acts 5:1-3 will give us an idea.

John 13:2;

2: "During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, to betray Him..."

Acts 5:1-3;

1: But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

2: and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. 3: But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan **filled your heart to lie** to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?"

They came to believe a lie that had been imparted to them by a false teacher. It will become clear that the mind and the belief one holds is the key.

Romans 12:2;

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Matthew 16:22-23;

22: "Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." 23: But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; **for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.**"

Romans 1:20-32;

20: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21: **For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.** 22: Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23: and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24: Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25: **For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.** 26: For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27: and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28: **And just as**

they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29: being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, 30: slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31: without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32: and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

I Timothy 6:3-5,

3: "If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4: he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5: and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain."

II Timothy 3:1-8;

1: "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2: For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3: unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4: treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5: holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 6: For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7: always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8: Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these *men* also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith."

Titus 1:15-16;

15: "To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, **but both their mind and their conscience** are defiled. 16: They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed."

Romans 8:5-7;

5: "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6: For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7: because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so...*"

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. If he can get people to 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.

The solution to his schemes (methods) are found throughout scripture.