Pentwater Bible Church

Book of Ezekiel Message 60 November 6, 2016



Lucifer Artist Unknown

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel
Message Fifty-Nine
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Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 28:11-19

¹¹Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ¹²Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³Thou wast in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was in thee; in the day that thou wast created they were prepared. 14 Thou wast the anointed cherub that covereth: and I set thee, so that thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till unrighteousness was found in thee. ¹⁶By the abundance of thy traffic they filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore have I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I have cast thee to the ground; I have laid thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸By the multitude of thine iniquities, in the unrighteousness of thy traffic, thou hast profaned thy sanctuaries; therefore have I brought forth a fire from the midst of thee; it hath devoured thee, and I have turned thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹All they that know thee among the peoples shall be astonished at thee: thou art become a terror, and thou shalt nevermore have any being (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah 14:3-20

¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, that didst lay low the nations! ¹³And thou saidst in thy heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; and I will sit upon the mount of congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High (ASV, 1901).

GOD'S WORD TELLS OF THE SIX SUCCESSIVE DOMAINS OF SATAN. THEY ARE:

- The Throne of God (Past)
- The Jeweled Garden of Eden (Past)
- The Atmospheric Heavens (Present)
- The Earth (Future)

- The Abyss (Future)
- The Lake of Fire (Future)

We have seen that sin was originated in Satan (Ezekiel 28: 15). He is a king with a kingdom (Matthew 12:26) and a portion of that kingdom consists of demons (Matthew 12:24). Scripture does not give us the exact origin of the demons. The New Testament tells of the angels who defected with Satan and "kept not their first estate" and "are reserved unto judgment of the great day" (II Peter 2: 4; Jude 1:6). Most competent conservative Bible teachers view the demons as the fallen angels. Some refer to them as disembodied spirits. This fall happened during Satan's second domain, the Jeweled Garden of Eden. The Bible is vastly superior in its exposition of demonology compared to the superstitious exaggeration in the general population.

Demons do exist, because the Bible says they do. In the Old Testament they were the power behind the idols prohibited by God for the Israelites to worship. In Hebrew, the demons are called Shedhim (Deuteronomy 32: 17; Psalm 106: 36-37) as well as Seirim (Leviticus 17:7; II Chronicles 11: 15; Isaiah 13:21; 34: 14).

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT THE DEMONS:

- They exist (James 2: 19; Revelation 9:20).
- They know who Jesus is (Luke 4: 41).
- They cannot disobey Jesus' commands (Matt 12:29).
- They are organized under Satan (Matt 12:26; Ephesians 6:12).
- They know their rulers (Luke 8:31; Rev 9"11).
- They are characterized as foul, unclean spirits (Luke 4:33; 6:18; Revelation 18:2).
- They are deceitful and perform miracles through unsaved human beings (1 Tim 4:1; Rev 16:14).
- They can possess humans (Mark 1:32).
- They are cast out of humans by Jesus and his disciples (Matthew15:22, 28; Luke 9:1, 42; 10:17).
- They can be rebuked (Mark 5:8).
- They know their final doom (Matthew 25:41).
- They are served by the unsaved (1 Corinthians 10:20).
- They cannot be served by those that are in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:21).

The demons have keen and supernatural knowledge. It is not as powerful as God's holy knowledge or our saving knowledge. They are confirmed in evil, never seek forgiveness and never plead for purity. They know that Jesus is the Lord of the spirit-world but don't have a trust in Him or submit to Him. They worship Christ but not in adoration or joy in Holy Communion. They bend to His will in resentment and hate. They, like Satan, have limited knowledge and ceaselessly attempt to thwart God's plans and purposes. They are depraved and completely morally corrupt. These evil beings have a desire to corrupt and are frequently called unclean in the Bible (Matthew 10:1; Mark 1: 27; 3: 11; Luke 4: 36; Acts 8:7; Revelation 16: 13).

SATAN'S THIRD DOMAIN: THE ATMOSPHERIC HEAVENS (PRESENT)

This is the domain of Satan that has been disclosed in the book of Ephesians.

Ephesians 2: 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience (KJV).

Ephesians 6: 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (KJV).

Satan in these two verses is described as the prince of the power of the air and existing in the heavenly places. He lives in the atmospheric heavens or in the air. He has permission to access two places, Heaven, and the earth. We see his Heavenly access in Job 1:6; 2:1. Here he is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12: 10). He also accuses the nation Israel (Zechariah 3:1). When Adam fell, Satan became the prince of the power of this world (John 12:31), the god of this age (II Corinthians 4:4) and the prince of the kingdom of this world and can offer them to whomsoever he wills, as he did with Jesus (Luke 4: 5-7).

He comes to earth in two forms. The first is as a roaring lion (I Peter 5: 8). In this way he destroys and devours. We will examine this characteristic when we begin to see how the demons are led. This form frequently results in physical persecution of Christians and the long campaign he has against the Jews throughout human history.

The second manifestation is as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11: 14). In this form he is a master deceiver. He has instigated a counterfeit program trying to be like the Most High. His program has been successful as he deceives believers to draw them away from a careful study of Gods Word. This program of deception has been carried out against both unbelievers (Revelation 20: 3) and believers (II Corinthians 11: 3). It is crucial that a believer study the Word of God in a line-by-line, verse-by-verse basis to understand the genuine story that God has provided. Knowing the genuine well will enable us to see the false when it is presented.

II Corinthians 11: 3-4 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him (KJV).

This simply speaks to the counterfeit. We have the genuine; we don't need the counterfeit. Many people depart from the genuine and embrace aberrant theologies because they do not know God's Word well. They start to listen to bad teachers and fall for the false because they do not know the genuine. In II Corinthians 11: 4 another Jesus, ...another spirit... and another gospel needs clarification. There are two Greek words for different allos and heteros. Allos speaks to another of the same kind and heteros speaks to another of a different kind. In the preceding two verses the text speaks of another of the same kind of Jesus (allos) but another of different kinds (heteros) of gospel and spirit. The Jesus being presented is like the genuine but is actually a counterfeit because the Spirit and the gospel presented with him are a different kind, and therefore false.

II Corinthians 11: 13-14 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light (KJV).

The counterfeit teachers called apostles are false but don't seem to be because they transform themselves into what seems to be the genuine. They are reflecting the leading of their true lord Satan the angel of darkness who fashions himself as an angel of light. Jesus gives the extent of the program as a warning.

Matthew 7: 22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (KJV).

Their accomplishments are significant. They can cast out demons, prophecy future events and do miraculous healings. They are doing the things that Satan can do. Outward miracles are not the proof of the genuine. Proof of the genuine is conformity to God's Word. The sensational is never going to replace the genuine. Those who stay at a superficial knowledge of Christ and His Word never mature in Christ and will receive no rewards or any position when the Kingdom is established on the earth. If they have no desire to grow, they should also be concerned about the sincerity of their salvation. Satan, in this domain, is the great tempter causing man to fall.

In the primitive societies the Devil can move about openly as a roaring lion.

Missionaries within these societies report much open demonic activity and possession. Only unbelievers can be possessed. In nominally Christian polite society, Satan has to deceive people to turn away from God in order to achieve his goals. The general population of regions of the world have standards of living that are based on Biblical standards. This drives the demons into using tools of deception. Some of the deceptions are:

- Rejecting supernaturalism altogether.
- Rejecting the authority of God's Word.
- Teaching that the entire Bible is not all God's Word.
- Giving rise to rational thought instead of revealed truth.
- Causing people to be unaware of the origin of their thoughts.
- Causing people to think that no disease has a direct demonic cause.
- Causing people to think that some sins are really "not so bad".
- Corrupting doctrinal integrity of the Scriptures so some parts of Scripture are thought of as more important that others.
- Causing the belief that magic is harmless (not sleight of hand).
- Causing a belief that paganism is harmless in its three root forms; magic, divination (seeking fortune tellers) and necromancy (seeking communication with the dead).
- Corrupting the Hebrew Mazzeroth (God's message in the star constellations of Christ and the Gospel) with astrology.
- Causing myth to come into Christianity replacing truth.
- Causing a belief that all religions are equal, whatever the doctrine.
- Causing schisms in Christian fellowship over doctrine.

• Bringing deception in world governments controlled by wicked ruler and dictators to renounce Christianity and provide a channel for the demons to have a great effect on large numbers of people.

By far the greatest field of activity for Satan and his demons is the Church because Satan can influence believers. The body of believers is charged with bringing converts into saving grace knowledge of Christ and His work. The Church is to teach the truth of the Bible. The powers of darkness are increasing in our day and age and dupe the world against the truth of the Bible and historic Christianity. Satan is dedicated to turning people from God. When men do believe the gospel, Satan exerts every effort to turn them away from God's will (Matthew 13:19). He knows that once they are saved they are beyond his power to destroy so he seeks to corrupt (Numbers 25: 1-3; 31: 16; James 4: 4; Revelation 2: 14). Therefore, he determines to do them as much damage as he can, seeking to ruin their Christian life and testimony for God.

Satan is unrelenting and pitiless in his hatred for God and the people of God. What makes the devil a fearful foe is the fact of his great power. This is augmented by the assistance of a vast number of fallen angels or demons. Consequently, satanic forces constitute a mighty, evil spiritual reality to be seriously reckoned with by the entire fallen race, both redeemed and unredeemed. We must be aware of the demonic activity and what we are charged with to defeat it.

In its spiritual war, the Church must be knowledgeable about the strategems of our enemy. In physical wars, military strategists are keenly aware of the necessity of knowing the enemy. Accordingly, they employ intricate networks of intelligence and counterintelligence. Missions involving espionage are frequently as crucial to winning a war as actual battles. Without intelligence of the enemy's strength and position, victory in any military encounter would be doubtful. Yet believers mostly display an obvious disinterest in what the Bible reveals about Satan and demons. The only sound approach is to know the enemy. Only as his wiles are revealed will the believer be able to anticipate and outmaneuver him. Satan's chief tactics are to hide his identity and his attacks. The Christian must recognize him and anticipate his moves.

Only as the believer knows the powers of darkness will he be able to win against them in his superior position and strength in Christ. The rampant demon activity of these last days (1 Timothy 4:1) means we must "Know our enemy!"

SATAN'S FOURTH DOMAIN: THE EARTH (FUTURE)

The fourth domain is yet future to us and is best described by the Revelation.

Revelation 12: 7-12; And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the

Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time (KJV).

In the middle of the Great Tribulation Satan will be cast down to the earth and confined there for the rest of the Tribulation. He will attempt to destroy the Jews once and for all. He will attempt to achieve this through the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Revelation 13).

SATAN'S FIFTH DOMAIN: THE ABYSS (FUTURE)

Satan entering the Abyss is described in Revelation.

Revelation 20: 1-3 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season (KJV).

Satan will be held captive during the one thousand year Kingdom period. During this time sin will be greatly reduced on the earth but not eliminated. Jesus the God-Man will rule the earth for this period and mankind will not have Satan the accuser to ruin his authority over the earth.

Hebrews 2: 5-9 For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man (KJV).

SATAN'S SIXTH DOMAIN: THE LAKE OF FIRE (FUTURE)

Revelation 20: 7-10 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever (KJV).

Satan can do no more harm when he is finally cast into a permanent punishment along with the fallen angels and unredeemed humanity. Death will finally be permanently removed (I Corinthians 15: 24-26). The seas and oceans will no longer exist as the earth had no seas in the first creation, Satan's second domain (Revelation 21:1).

NEXT MESSAGE: THE PROPHECY AGAINST THE PROPHECY AGAINST SIDON

E-mail: info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com Call: Toll Free 877-706-2479