

The Defeat of Satan and the End of the Millennium

Part 1: “The Cross, the Parousia, and the Defeat of Satan”

1) The Hijacking of Words

- a) Many religious words that are found in the Bible have been hijacked by the evolution of language, translation, church tradition, misinterpretations, and even pop culture.
- b) Words like church, angel, Hell, resurrection, Satan, and the Devil have all gained baggage over the years. When we read one of these words in scripture, it is extremely difficult to leave behind the general, modern-day usage of these words when interpreting a passage.
- c) One may be tempted to read into a text something that is not there because of the way that our English language, traditions, and culture have hijacked that particular word.
- d) This is especially true with a study of the defeat of Satan or the Devil.

2) Can We Fix this Problem?

- a) When you think of the words Devil and Satan, one of the first things that comes to your mind is something like you see to the right.
- b) There is a remedy to this problem, however: substituting the literal translation of the words *Satanas* and *Diablos*.
- c) We will use the words “Adversary” and “Slanderer” within this presentation.

3) The Traditional View of Satan

- a) While I have not abandoned the traditional idea of Satan as of yet, I do believe that there are far more passages in the Bible that use the words *Satanas* and *Diablos* to represent those in opposition to God’s scheme of redemption than there are to point to an other-worldly being.
- b) Your view of the nature or person of Satan should not have any bearing on whether or not he has been defeated.
- c) While I can’t go into it at this time, there are several issues I have with the traditional view of Satan concerning his role in temptation (see James 1:14).
- d) With that being said, we will begin our presentation.

4) The Three Stages of the Work of Christ in Eschatology

- a) In my opinion, our eschatology must be Cross-centered and Cross-determined.
- b) All of eschatology is related directly to Jesus’ work on the Cross: He was the firstfruit of the resurrection, His death is the means through which death is destroyed, His death initiated the

New Heavens and New Earth, and, in my opinion, it is through Jesus' death that the adversary and slanderer was bound and then subsequently destroyed at His Parousia.

- c) All of this was accomplished in three stages: Jesus' death at the end of the ages, His appearing before the throne of God to present His offering, and His second appearing for salvation.
- d) All three stages, however, hinge upon the demonstration of love, grace, and mercy through the death of the Lamb of God.

5) The Three Stages of the Work of Christ

- a) Hebrews 9:24-28 (NASB) For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, **now to appear in the presence of God for us;** (25) nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. (26) Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (27) And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, (28) so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.
- b) Jesus' death on the cross was the first dimension of the age-changing eschaton.
- c) The apostles and disciples of the first century, while eagerly awaiting the complimentary second appearing of Christ, preached the gospel to all of the world while Jesus appeared before God in Heaven. This gospel is the power that God would use to abolish death, defeat the adversary and the slanderer, and bring about the end.
- d) Romans 1:16, Matthew 24:14, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6.
- e) The word of God was also the tool the prophets of old used to bring down the enemies of God: Jeremiah 1:9-10.

6) Genesis 3:15

- a) Genesis 3:14-15 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; (15) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
- b) [Thought: Why would God punish all snakes if this was the adversary disguised as a snake? Was it all serpents' fault that the slanderer chose its species?]
- c) Due to the adversary's involvement in death entering the world, God introduced His plan to defeat the adversary by means of the seed of woman crushing the seed of the adversary.
 - i) Does the Bible identify the seed of the slanderer?

7) The Children of the Adversary

- a) John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
 - b) Jesus identified His contemporaries as the seed of the slanderer.
 - c) The slanderer was a murderer from the beginning, but who did he murder in the beginning?
 - d) The death that he assisted in bringing about was spiritual death – or separation from God.
 - e) This same message of death was preached by the first century Jews: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1ff.
 - f) When the Bible speaks of the adversary or the slanderer in the New Testament – and other phrases we generally attribute to the Devil such as "prince of this world" – it is often speaking of those who rejected the gospel and stood in opposition to God's last days scheme of redemption.
 - g) This seed of the serpent can be traced throughout scripture.
 - h) Cain, for example, murdered his brother Abel. Cain went about to establish his own righteousness through offering an unrequested sacrifice, and he was accordingly judged.
 - i) The Jews of the first century who rejected the gospel and the inclusion of the Gentiles into the world above, are said to be of Cain as well: 1 John 3:12; Jude 11.
 - j) This seed persecuted the prophets, and led the people away from God's plan.
- 8) The Binding of Satan
- a) The binding of the adversary through the means of the age-changing death of Christ is directly related to the destruction of the slanderer at the end of the millennium.
 - b) Hebrews 2:14-15 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
 - c) The adversary was rendered powerless through the death of Christ, but in what regard? In regards to his power over death. Through deceiving the world to the true nature and meaning of God's scheme of redemption, the slanderer ruled the air and the world below by keeping the people in a state of death and apparent hopelessness by emphasizing the lusts of flesh – the lusts of "this world."
 - d) Revelation 20:2-3 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; (3) and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.
 - e) The binding of the adversary through means of the Cross-event marks the beginning of the Millennium.

- f) Any eschatology that has the beginning of the Millennium at a post-cross time fails to see the significant role of the Cross of Christ in the changing of the ages. These are not Cross-centered eschatologies, and they end up having Jesus return to remove the very thing that He died to establish.

9) The Deceiving of the Nations

- a) The nations were deceived through masking the true nature of God's scheme of redemption through means of the lusts of the flesh.
- b) This blindness can be seen at the base of Mount Sinai, in the spy's unwillingness to enter the Promised Land of the earthy dimension of the Abrahamic promise, in the rejection of God as Israel's King, and in numerous other examples.
- c) Herod, who had been deceived concerning the true nature of the restoration of Israel, sought to even put Jesus to death as a child.
- d) This deception affected both Jew and Greek.
- e) This deception even affected the followers of Jesus.

10) The Deceiving of the Disciples

- a) Even the remnant was subject to the deception of the adversary, and it would not be until after the resurrection of Jesus that their eyes would be opened to the true meaning of God's last days scheme of redemption. While they understood the general framework of eschatology, they still had misunderstandings concerning the nature (Matthew 13:51; Matthew 24:3; John 2:18-22).
- b) It took the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus and His forty-day ministry to open their minds to a proper understanding of the world into which Jesus had been resurrected (1 Peter 4:18; Ephesians 1:18-20).
- c) Luke 24:13ff; Luke 24:44-45; John 20:22; Acts 1:1ff
- d) From then on out, instead of fleeing, the disciples were willing to die for the Lord.

11) The Loosing of Satan

- a) The message of the gospel spread like wildfire. While there were still some caught up in the wisdom of the world below (1 Corinthians 1:18; 2: 8; 2 Corinthians 4:4).
- b) While thousands upon thousands obeyed the gospel call, there was coming a dark time in which a large majority would fall away. This is called the last days by those living in the last days; that is, this is the "last days" of the last days. 1 Timothy 4:1ff; 2 Peter 3:3.
- c) Paul indicated that this apostasy would be led by "the man of sin" (2 Thessalonians 2:1ff). This man of sin was being hindered at that time, but the power that held him would soon be loosed. The mystery of iniquity that he would proclaim had already begun in part. At the loosing of the adversary, the nations would be deceived once more, many would fall away, and the coming of the Lord would take place to destroy the man of sin and cast that adversary into outer darkness.

- d) Jude and John indicated that this final deception that Peter and Paul warned about had begun to take place, and that the lusts of the world below – the cause of the deception – were passing away.
- e) 1Jn 2:17-18 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (18) Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.
- f) Jud 1:17-19 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, (18) that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." (19) These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

12) The Defeat of Satan

- a) Looking towards the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, Paul exhorted the Roman community of believers by telling them that their victory was at hand. Keep in mind that this victory is a Cross-determined victory.
- b) Rom 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- c) The body of Christ, therefore being partakers of the promised Seed, would soon crush Satan. They were given this power through positively responding to the gospel of Christ – God's power to save.
- d) It would be at the coming of the Lord that this final victory would take place.
- e) Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- f) This defeat takes place after the nations were deceived once more and turned their focus on fleshly Israel instead of spiritual Israel.
- g) All of this is accomplished at the time of "the war" which Don has shown to be (or will show to be!) the battle which resulted in the fall of Babylon – the Jerusalem below.
- h) This was to take place, according to the inspired writings of the apostle Paul, in the near future from the perspective of the first century saints.

13) Conclusion

- a) In my next presentation, I will answer common objections to this lesson, discuss more related passages, and try to give more insight to the timing of these things.
- b) The defeat of Satan being at hand in the first century is a devastating problem that Postmillennialism has.
- c) Like Amillennialism, Postmillennialism sees the power of the time statements when it comes to certain subjects such as the kingdom of God and even the fulfillment of the majority of

Revelation in some cases, but when the time statements violate their presuppositions, there is no hesitation in casting them aside.

- d) “In Rev 20 John focuses briefly on ultimate eschatological events that look well beyond the short time frame of the book. This is anticipated in his referring to the thousand years (Rev 20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7), which by definition must extend beyond the “near” / “at hand” time frame.” – Kenneth Gentry “Why Will Satan Be Loosed?” August 29, 2014