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Satan and Christ

Series: A Brief History of Satan

Rev. Andrew Hawkins, Ph.D.

The Village Church at Shell Point

Evening Service

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I. Luther and Satan

- A. Luther fought the Devil with an inkwell
 - 1. Legend of his throwing an inkwell at the Devil
 - a. Spot on wall at Wittenburg castle to prove it???
 - 2. More likely fought Devil with his writing
 - a. **95 Theses**
 - (1) Provoked the Reformation
 - b. **Theological Disputations**
 - (1) *The Bondage of the Will* against Erasmus, the great 16th Century Humanist
 - c. **Translated the New Testament** from Latin into German
 - (1) Maybe his greatest attack on Satan
 - (2) Provided the Word of God in the language of the people
 - d. **Dozens of hymns**
 - 3. **A Mighty Fortress in Our God** (based on Ps 46)
 - a. A mighty fortress is our God
 - b. A bulwark never failing.
 - c. Our helper amidst the flood
 - d. Of mortal ills prevailing.
 - e. For still our ancient foe
 - f. Doth seek to work us woe.
 - g. His craft and power are great
 - h. And armed with cruel hate.
 - i. On earth is not his equal.
- B. Luther knew about the onslaught of Satan more than any of us will likely ever know
 - 1. Normal temptations
 - 2. Consumed with theological implications of his sin
 - a. Monk who sought to confess every possible sin, even the most minor peccadillo
 - (1) Even Staupitz, his mentor, had to tell him to get a life
 - b. Afraid of God, the righteous judge; took God absolutely seriously
 - c. If ever Satan was the accuser of any human being, it was of Martin Luther
 - 3. Once again, Satan's plan backfired

- a. His accusations of Luther led Luther to discover the very essence of the Gospel in Romans
 - (1) A righteousness from God was revealed... the righteous will live by faith in the Son of God
- b. Luther was set free from condemnation
 - (1) The reformation was born in his own heart
 - (2) Spilled over into the theological world
 - (3) Church has never been the same since
- 4. Luther didn't live happily ever after
 - a. Midst of great conflict within the church as a result of the gospel
 - b. Would have been killed if not for a sympathetic German prince who protected him
 - c. Still fought against the church he had loved; came to see in the medieval Roman church the very nature of antichrist
 - d. Conclusion was valid in light of the fact of extraordinary corruption within the Roman church at that time
 - e. More importantly, because the church, the one institution that was charged with guarding and proclaiming the gospel, had subverted it, hidden it, and had actually condemned as heretics those who had discovered it in the pages of scripture
- 5. The Devil was no abstract theological notion to Luther
 - a. Neither a figment of his imagination
- 6. Rather, the Devil was real, powerful, armed to the teeth and arrayed with his minions against the people God loves
 - a. His craft and power are great
 - b. And armed with cruel hate.
 - c. On earth is not his equal.

II. The Craft of the Devil

- A. Consider the extraordinary craft of the Devil
- B. Successful in provoking the fall of humanity
 - 1. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect garden with a perfect Father
 - a. Nothing that they could ever want or need was deprived
 - 2. Yet Satan, masquerading as a serpent, one of the creatures Adam and Eve had learned to know and love, enticed them
 - a. "Oh, isn't the serpent cute?"
 - b. But the Serpent enticed with half-truths and outright lies
 - 3. They fell, and took the whole human race with them into a sinful condition
- C. 2 Corinthians 11:1–15 (ESV) —
 - 1. 1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me!
 - 2. 2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
 - 3. 3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

4. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.
5. 5 Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles.
6. 6 Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.
7. 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge?
8. 8 I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you.
9. 9 And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way.
10. 10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia.
11. 11 And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!
12. 12 And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do.
13. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.
14. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
15. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

D. **Satan continues his crafty deceptive ways in the church today**

1. If he can no longer prevent the seed from accomplishing its primary mission, he will seek to distort its fruit within the people of God
 - a. **Heresies**
 - (1) Outright departures from the doctrinal truth
 - b. **Schisms**
 - (1) Church divisions based on usually debatable issues
 - c. **Discord**
 - (1) Complaining and dissatisfaction like Israel in the wilderness
 - (2) Only we have a lot more sophisticated ways of gossiping and undermining leadership
2. Always by craft, so that the perpetrators manage to convince themselves they are in the right and fighting for the angels
 - a. Trouble is, they are often fighting for the wrong angels

III. **The Power of the Devil**

- A. Consider the power of the Devil
- B. Fall of humanity was nothing sort of catastrophic

1. Not just a slight slip or mistake
2. Adam and Eve's sin plunged them into the state of original sin
 - a. Their constitutions changed so that their primary inclination was toward sin and away from God
3. Their sinful nature continued to multiply in their children
 - a. Within one generation we have **the first murder**
 - (1) Of a brother at that
 - (2) Of one who was designed to be the closest of friends
4. That sinful nature multiplied even more the offspring of Cain
 - a. **Genesis 4:16–24** (ESV) —
 - (1) 16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.
 - (2) 17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.
 - (3) 18 To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.
 - (4) 19 And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.
 - (5) 20 Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.
 - (6) 21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.
 - (7) 22 Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.
 - (8) 23 Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.
 - (9) 24 If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."
5. The violence that was involved in the second generation had become permanently established in the race
 - a. Violence that has remained with us ever since
 - b. No human remedy, no human institution, no human solution has ever been found to that kind of violence
 - c. Do we have to cite contemporary evidence of that?
6. Certainly the power of Satan is evident in it
- C. Power of Satan is evident in the great governments, rulers and civilizations that have set themselves up against God
 1. Explicit in Ezek 28
 2. **Ezekiel 28:1–5** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 The word of the LORD came to me:

- b. 2 “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because your heart is proud, and you have said, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,’ yet you are but a man, and no god, though you make your heart like the heart of a god—
- c. 3 you are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you;
- d. 4 by your wisdom and your understanding you have made wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries;
- e. 5 by your great wisdom in your trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth—
- 3. Prophetic diatribe against the proud King of Tyre
- 4. **Ezekiel 28:12–15** (ESV) —
 - a. 12 “Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
 - b. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.
 - c. 14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.
 - d. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.
- 5. Prophet begins to talk about a being greater than any human king
 - a. Power behind the throne – the great fallen angel, the anointed Cherub – Satan
- 6. Explicit in **Daniel 10:12-13**
 - a. Context – vision; angel or messenger was speaking to him
 - b. Daniel 10:12–13 (ESV) —
 - (1) 12 Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.
 - (2) 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia...
 - c. The kings of Persia, one of the great civilizations, were governed by the demonic
- 7. Implicit in other texts
 - a. **Daniel 2:36–43** (ESV) —
 - (1) 36 “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation.

- (2) 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory,
- (3) 38 and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold.
- (4) 39 Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.
- (5) 40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these.
- (6) 41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay.
- (7) 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle.
- (8) 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.

b. **Four kingdoms**

- (1) **Babylonia**
- (2) **Persia**
- (3) **Greece**
- (4) **Rome**

c. All four persecuted the people of God

- (1) Even the fourth, the instrument which crucified the Son of God

8. All these governments display the extraordinary power of Satan in directing their affairs and in wreaking havoc in the world in general

9. How many other kingdoms since have demonstrated that kind of Satanic power

a. Stalinist regime – built on the intellectual musings of a very bright young man with a little too much time on his hands as he browsed the volumes in the library in the British Museum

- (1) Responsible for death of 15 million people during his lifetime

- (2) Stalin, who in his very death shook his fist defiantly at God whom he would soon meet as his righteous judge

b. Hitler's Reich – built on the intellectual musings of a very disturbed old man, Nietzsche

- (1) Responsible for the deaths of 6 million Jews as well as millions of others across the globe
 - c. Add Mao Zedong and Pol Pot to the list
 - (1) Responsible for countless other deaths
 - (2) Not to mention the enslavement of millions
 - d. Together these regimes have made the 20th Century the bloodiest in the history of the world
 - (1) This was to have been the century when we found peace for our time according the Neville Chamberlains
 - (2) The century when enlightenment rationalism would free us from all the ills and inhumanity that religion has been responsible for
 - e. Behind them all – Satan and his army of demons, orchestrating events which bring unimaginable death and destruction to our world
10. And it's not over, is it?
- a. Hamas seeks the destruction – indeed, the complete eradication – of the nation of Israel
 - b. Behind Hamas and Hezbollah are Iran who openly declare their very intentions to do the same
 - c. And they'd all love to eradicate the United States as well
 - d. You don't have to see the current state of Israel in any particular form of biblical people of God in order to see the Satanic origin of such hatred
 - e. And then to see the hatred spill over into our own nation, unmasking the Satanic condition of many of our nation's universities
11. Power finally unleashed in the **final anti-god civilization – Babylon** in Revelation
- a. Built on the power of the beast and false prophet
 - (1) Anti-god government
 - (2) Anti-god religion
 - b. All driven by the dragon, that serpent of old, Satan
12. How great is the power of this ancient foe

IV. **The Hatred of the Devil**

- A. Consider the cruel hatred of Satan
- B. Slaughter of countless lives in biblical history alone testifies to his ruthlessness
 - 1. Imagine the destruction of male Hebrew babies in Egypt by Pharaoh in a vain attempt to limit the population of Hebrews in Goshen
 - a. Imagine the wailing of their mothers as the agents of destruction came to destroy the lives that they carried for nine months
 - b. Destruction which only the extraordinary bravery of midwives could prevent in order to save the infant Moses for God's purposes

2. Imagine the destruction of children in the conquest of Jerusalem by Babylon which prompted Jeremiah to exclaim
 - a. **Jeremiah 31:15** (ESV) —
 - (1) 15 Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”
 - b. Indeed, even today Rachel is weeping for her children!
 - c. Babylon was being used here as agent of God’s judgment on His people
 - (1) But Babylon wasn’t doing anything it didn’t want to do in its wickedness
 - (2) For God would judge Babylon for her wickedness against Judah
 - d. Certainly, Satan took great pleasure in such disastrous times.
3. Very same text was used to speak of the destruction of the thousands of infants born around the time of Christ as Herod sought vainly to destroy the seed who would be the King of kings
- C. Clearly, with Satan behind all these kinds of things (and more besides) his craft, power, and cruel hatred are obvious
 1. Led Luther to proclaim, “On earth is not his equal”

V. **Christ’s Answer to Satan**

- A. Luther wrote more than one verse:
 1. Did we in our own strength confide
 2. Our striving would be losing.
 3. Were not the right man on our side,
 4. The man of God's own choosing.
 5. Dost ask who that may be?
 6. Christ Jesus it is He.
 7. Lord Sabaoth His name,
 8. From age to age the same.
 9. And He must win the battle.
- B. **The Special Object of Satan’s Hatred**
 1. Jesus Christ stands over and against Satan in spite of his craft, power and cruelty
 2. Son of God is special object of Satan’s hatred
 3. Edwards: Satan has ever had a peculiar enmity against the Son of God; probably his first rebellion, which was his condemnation, was his proudly taking it in disdain when God declared the decree in heaven that His Son, in man’s nature, should be the King of heaven, and that all the angels should worship Him. However that was, yet it is certain that his strife has ever been between the seed of the woman and the serpent.
 4. Edwards: God has appointed His Son to be the heir of the world, but the devil has contested this matter with Him, and has strived to set himself up

as god of the world. And how exceedingly has the devil exalted himself against Christ! How did he oppose Him as He dwelt among the Jews in His tabernacle and temple! And how did he oppose Him when on earth! And how has he opposed Him since His ascension! What great and mighty works has Satan brought to pass in the world! How many Babels has he built up to heaven in his opposition to the Son of God! How exceedingly proud and haughty has he appeared in his opposition! How have he and his instruments – sin, affliction, and death, of which he is the father – raged against Christ!

5. But yet Jesus Christ is exalted far above that formidable enemy
6. Edwards: But yet Christ, in the work of redemption, appears infinitely above them all. In this work He triumphs over them, however they have dealt proudly; and they all appear under His feet. In this the glory of the Son of God, in the work of redemption, remarkably appears.
7. Edwards makes another even more remarkable observation about the nature of this amazing exaltation:
 - a. Edwards: The beauty of good appears with the greatest advantage when compared with its contrary evil. And the glory of that which is excellent then especially shows itself when it triumphs over its contrary, and appears vastly above it in its greatest height. The glory of Christ, in this glorious exaltation over so great evil that so exalted itself against Him, the more remarkably appears in that He is thus exalted out of so low a state. Though He appeared in the world as a little child, yet how does He triumph over the most gigantic enemies of God and men! He who was “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” is a man of war, and triumphed over His enemies in all their power. He who was meek and lowly of heart has triumphed over those proud foes. And He is exalted over them all in that which appears most despicable, even His cross.

C. **The Wisdom of Christ**

1. Where Satan was crafty, Christ was subtly wise
2. Using the very design of Satan to glorify Himself and secure the redemption of His people
 - a. Satan entered into Judas to betray Jesus
 - b. Satan was behind the crowds that cried “crucify Him”
 - c. Satan was behind Pilate who sentenced Him
 - d. Satan was behind the soldiers who pounded the nails into His hands
3. All of which were the very means by which Christ in His wisdom secured our redemption

D. **The Power of Christ**

1. Where Satan was powerful, Christ displayed a power that humanity has never quite understood: **the power of an indestructible life**

2. The superiority of the priesthood of Christ was displayed in the priesthood of Melchizedek in which Christ became the true perfect sacrifice, the spotless Lamb
 3. **Hebrews 7:15–16** (ESV) —
 - a. 15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,
 - b. 16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.
 4. The power of Christ was unfazed by the temptations of Satan in the wilderness
 5. The power of Christ was unfazed by the temptations of His closest disciple, Peter, who tried to dissuade Him from the way of the cross
 6. The power of Christ was unfazed by His gaze into the cup of God’s wrath in Gethsemane which He knew He had to drink in order to secure our redemption
 7. The power of Christ has prevailed over the power of Satan
- E. **The Love of Christ**
1. Where Satan was cruel, Christ displayed a love that Satan has yet to understand
 2. A love in which He lay down His life, not for anyone who deserved it, but for everyone who didn’t
 3. You and I deserved to be the special object of Satan’s merciless attacks, and especially of the onslaught of the wrath of God Almighty due to our sinfulness
 4. Yet Christ so loved us that He gave His life for us, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life
- F. **The Victory of Christ**
1. All of which has led to the victory of Christ over the Devil
 2. Edwards comments on this extraordinary accomplishment of Christ:
 - a. Edwards: The evils mentioned never seemed so much to prevail against Him as in His sufferings, but in them the foundation was laid for their overthrow. In them He appeared above Satan. Though Satan never exalted himself so high as he did in procuring these sufferings of Christ, yet then Christ laid the foundation for the utter overthrow of his kingdom. He slew Satan, as it were, with his own weapon... the wisdom of Christ so ordered things that Satan’s subtlety and malice should be made the very means of undermining the foundations of his kingdom; and so He wisely led him into the pit that he had dug.
 - b. Edwards: When death slew Him, it slew itself; for Christ, through death, destroyed him who had the power of death, even the devil (Heb 2:14)
 3. Philippians 2 summarizes this extraordinary turnabout victory:
 4. **Philippians 2:6–11** (ESV) —

- a. 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
 - b. 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
 - c. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - d. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
 - e. 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 - f. 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
5. Every knee should bow
- a. Lord Sabaoth His name
 - (1) Lord of hosts
 - (2) Commander of the army of the Lord
 - b. Commander of every army ultimately, even Satan's
 - (1) Whom He uses for His own loving and redemptive purposes
 - (2) Much to Satan's dismay
6. The Lord will lead His army into battle one last time for a final victory against Satan and his demonic army, casting them into the Lake of fire
- a. But the victory has already been won
 - b. It was won on the cross
- G. That's why Luther would write, "And He must win the battle"
- 1. His victory is necessary
 - 2. Because His victory is already assured
 - a. This prince of darkness grim,
 - b. We tremble not for him.
 - c. His rage we can endure,
 - d. For lo, his doom is sure.
 - e. One little word shall fell him.