

## The Devil's Relationship to Unbeliever's

### Introduction

None of us like to be manipulated or conned. Hitler did it to a nation. They had no idea that they were being manipulated. Castro did it to a nation. He used people including the United States of America. We were tricked, deceived. The great deceiver is Satan. For those who reject Christ or for those who do nothing, he manipulates and uses them as a puppet without anyone really being conscious of it.

Nature provides us with an illustration that closely parallels the insidious tactics employed by our adversary. According to scientists, Arctic polar bears feed almost entirely on seals. To enjoy such a meal, they sometimes resort to a cunning bit of trickery. If the hole through which the seal gets his food is near the edge of the ice, the polar bear will take a deep breath and swim under water to its exact location. Remaining below the surface, he will then make a tiny scratching sound, imitating a fish. When the charmed seal hears this, he dives in for a quick supper, only to find himself suddenly entrapped in the huge, hungry embrace of his predator.

- I. A Three Minute Review or Where We've Been
  - A. Created Being who witnessed God's creative activity
    - 1. He himself was created and given a dominion to rule.
    - 2. He fell because of his splendor which corrupted his wisdom. There is no excuse because he had the right proportion of wisdom given with his splendor.
    - 3. Prior to his fall, he not only ruled the earth of that time, but also trafficked in worship. He himself at that time was a living doxology.
  - B. His desire is to be like God.
    - 1. He is running a parallel program. He does not want to be unlike God. As a result he tries to pose in God's place. He poses as an angel of light.
- II. The Lamb has Overcome and Satan is a defeated foe.
  - A. **His final dome** - Revelation 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.
  - B. **Believers have a new dominion** - Colossians 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
    - 1. Deliver is word for rescued and is in the aorist tense. Domain is word for

power. The power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed).

2. I love the way Paul states it - Act 26:15 "And I said, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 'But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 delivering you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me. '
  
3. As a result, Satan has power over us - John 17:15 "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*.
  - a. Keep is the word guard and it is an aorist. It has the idea of complete protection.

III. Present Powers of Satan (Not a complete List)

A. **He has Great Supernatural Powers.**

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

B. **He Can Use or even Possess the Body of Animals**

1. Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"
2. Remember the legions of demons which went into some swine and they ran off a cliff to their death. (Matthew 8:30ff).

C. **He Can Possess Men**

1. Luke 22:3 And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. He will also fill the Antichrist.

D. **He Can Inflict Death Upon Men**

1. Job 1:12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD. 18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking

wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you. "

a. He hates humans and where ever he is involved with them they die or get hurt. Remember the boy possessed and would cut himself or throw himself in the fire, that's Satan.

2. **Satan is on a leash. God will only let him go so far. Within that limit, Satan can do as he pleases to those who serve him or shall we say to those who do not belong to God.**

E. **He can inflict physical disease on men.**

1. Luke 13:11 And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. (16) "And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

a. Sickness may be due to (1) sin, (2) natural causes, (3) Satan, or for just the (4) glory of God.

#### IV. Satan's Absolute Control Over His Own

##### A. **He blinds their minds to the Gospel**

1. 2 Corinthians 4:3 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, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

a. In the realm of the mind, he causes the gospel to be foolishness to those who are perishing. 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

b. We all have a philosophical base chosen by many factors. So an empiricalist would differ from a rationalist. Both at times would say the other is foolish. Example pre-Columbus: the empiricalist would say that the earth is a sphere. That is his experience as a scientist. The rationalist would say the earth is flat cause that is what makes sense. Both would say the other was foolish.

##### B. **He snatches God's Word from their hearts.**

1. Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. 12 "And those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and

takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved.

- a. He can begin to redirect thoughts. Likewise the devil can do this after the Spirit of God makes the gospel known.

C. **He Uses the Unbeliever to oppose the Christian faith.**

1. Act 13:8 But Elymas the magician (for thus his name is translated) was opposing them (Paul and Barnabas), seeking to turn the proconsul (Sergius Paulus) away from the faith. 9 But Saul, who was also *known as* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him, 10 and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"

- a. Much of the attack today on us can be demonic without the individual even knowing it. They think the thoughts are their own when in fact they originate from Satan.
- b. Fazio's attack on Christians may be demonic and will see a lot more as we go along. CSPAN had the gay and lesbian forum on and all they did is attack Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson.

D. **He Energizes the Unbeliever with an Active Influence.**

1. Ephesians 2:2 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.
  - a. Working is a present participle and is from *Aergon*.
  - b. He gives energy. Those who deny the existence of a personal devil cannot successfully deny the vicious tendencies, the crime waves, in modern men. The power of the devil in the lives of men does explain the evil at work "in the sons of disobedience" (*en toij u`ioij thj apeqiaj*). Look at the energy of the Nazi's to kill Jews.
  - c. Example: Claire Prophet is on television talking about NAM and Buddahism. She talked about the fact that she has been up twenty four hours and in 3 cities and can keep going. That's Satan working and inspiring.

E. **He Gives Self-Satisfaction and Complacency.**

1. 1Jo 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.
  - a. Lies'present tense verb. It is the verb used of a mother rocking her child to sleep. In other words, Satan is constantly is rocking asleep the world of unbelievers. **He is making them feel safe and**

**content.**

- b. Example: We see this at the beginning of the Tribulation period.  
While they are saying peace sudden destruction comes their way.

F. **He makes the Unbeliever Willing to do his Will.**

- 1. 2 Timothy 2:26 and they (those who oppose God) may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
  - a. Captive'Perfect passive participle. It means to take alive. It was used of fish and game.
- 2. The unbeliever is not only held captive, but is duped into doing his will. What is most amazing, the unbeliever does not even know it. He understands he is doing his own thing when in reality he is doing what the evil one wants.
- 3. Example: Even a believer like Peter was sincere but wrong. He was being used as a tool without his knowledge. How much more those who belong to the evil one.

G. **He Will Pose as an Angel of Light**

- 1. 2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

2. He wanted to be like of God. He will appear to the unbeliever as God and fool them with the doctrine of devil.
- a. 1Ti 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, Revelation 2:24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them-- I place no other burden on you.
- b. His doctrines appear right on and not evil. **But if you are unwilling to believe the truth, you will believe a lie.** Joh 8:43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. 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.

Conclusion: I read a humorous but revealing satire on Satan.

### **The Ten Beatitudes of Satan**

Blessed are they who are too tired and too busy to go to church on Sunday, for they are my best workers.

Blessed are they who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes, for they get nothing out of the sermon.

Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church for he is part of the problem instead of the solution.

Blessed are they who gossip, for they cause strife and divisions that please me.

Blessed are they who are easily offended, for they soon get angry and quit.

Blessed are they who do not give their offerings to carry on God's work for they are my best helpers.

Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister, for he shall be with me forever.

Blessed are the trouble makers, for they shall be called children of the devil.

Blessed is he who has no time to pray, for he will be easy prey.

For the believer, you are no longer in his kingdom. You are no longer under his power. You have a new life being lead by God to do His will, you are kept from the power of the evil one, John 17:15, and Ephesians 2:2-3.

For the unbeliever, hear the only road to freedom, GOSPEL!