

SATAN: A BIBLICAL LOOK AT WHO HE IS AND FALSE WORLD VIEWS

In our world today many people do not even believe that Satan exists. This of course is a great advantage for the devil. It is hard to prepare to defend yourself against the tactics of the enemy if you do not believe the enemy exists. Perhaps Satan himself had something to do with the un-Biblical worldview of him. Satan is also often pictured as half-man/half-beast, with horns, tail, and cloven hoofs, carrying a trident. This un-Biblical view of him is so ridiculous that some reject belief in his existence altogether. The greatest witness we have to Satan's actual existence is that of Jesus Christ. Who should know better than the creator?

Jesus created angels.

Colossians 1:13-16 “For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.”

(Concerning rulers and authorities as demonic beings see Ephesians 6:12, Ephesians 2:2, Colossians 2:15, and 1 John 3:8.)

JESUS CONSIDERED SATAN AN ACTUAL BEING, NOT JUST SOME UNSEEN FORCE

Jesus had a conversation with Satan during which Satan twisted Scripture and tried to tempt Jesus to sin (Matthew 4:1-10). Jesus refers to Satan as one who steals the word of God from men's hearts (Mark 4:15). Jesus declared he saw Satan fall from heaven (Luke 10:18). Jesus told Simon that Satan had asked permission to sift Him like wheat; in other words, to destroy His faith (Luke 22:31-32). In these Scriptures Jesus shows us that Satan is not just an unseen force, but rather he is an actual being.

SATAN IS A FALLEN ANGEL, WHICH IS A CREATED BEING

Ezekiel 28:13-18 “You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you.”

Although this passage also relates to the king of Tyre, from this passage we learn that Satan is a created being that was beautiful and full of wisdom. He was originally blameless then he became violent and arrogant because his beauty and wisdom went to his head. Satan's pride was his downfall. A similar passage relating to the king of Babylon and Satan's fall due to pride can be found in Isaiah 14:4-19. A cherub as mentioned in this passage is an angel.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition

“**cher.ub** n, pl usu cher.u.bim [L, fr. Gk cheroub, fr. Heb kerubh] (13c) 1 pl: an order of angels--see celestial hierarchy 2 pl usu cherubs a: a beautiful usu. winged child in painting and sculpture b: an innocent-looking usu. chubby and rosy person -- che.ru.bic adj -- che.ru.bi.cal.ly adv -- cher.ub.like adj...”

“**celestial hierarchy** n (1883): a traditional hierarchy of angels ranked from lowest to highest into the following nine orders: angels, archangels, principalities, powers, virtues, dominions, thrones, cherubim, and seraphim”

As already stated, many people do not believe that Satan exists. Others lean toward the idea that Satan is the equal opposite of God, making him much greater than he is. Satan is called the “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4), but he does not possess the attributes of the true God. For Satan to be the opposite of God he would have to possess some of these divine attributes of God. Scripture tells us that God is all-powerful (Job 42:2, Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26, Luke 1:37); God is all-knowing (Psalm 147:5, Isaiah 40:28, Romans 11:33); and God is present everywhere at once (Psalm 139:7-12, Jeremiah 23:23-24, 2 Chronicles 2:6). Satan does not possess any of these qualities; therefore, he is not simply an equal opposite of God. We know that Satan is not all-powerful because he is defeated by the cross, and his works are destroyed by Christ (Colossians 2:14-15, Hebrews 2:14, 1 John 3:8).

Satan's final end is in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). Furthermore, Satan is not all-knowing he believed Job would turn against God if the protective hedge was taken away (Job 1:9-11). Satan was shown wrong when Job did not turn against God (Job 1:22). Throughout the book of Job, we find that Satan tried to prove that he could make Job curse God, and he always failed to do so. This is not an all-knowing being. Finally, Satan cannot be everywhere at once. Satan himself said that he was "roaming about on the earth and walking around on it" (Job 2:2). This indicates that he is only at one place at a time. We are also told that our adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). This is another indication that he is not everywhere at once. Also in Revelation 12:9 we find that Satan and his angels were thrown down to the earth. This shows us that Satan, and his followers are not everywhere at once. Our conclusion is that since Satan does not possess any of these attributes of God, he is not an equal opposite of God. Satan is a created being that does not possess the wisdom or the power that God has.

Another un-Biblical worldview of Satan is that he reigns over hell. Satan is not even in hell. He is roaming about on the earth (1 Peter 5:8, Job 1:7 and 2:2). Satan is not going to be bound until the 1,000-year reign of Christ. After this he will be released for a time and then finally thrown into the lake of fire Revelation 20:1-10. When Satan does enter hell, it will be as a prisoner, not as a ruler (Isaiah 14:9-17). In the meantime, he does have his own kingdom here on earth (Matthew 12:26, John 14:30, 16:11, Acts 26:18, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2, 6:12).

SATAN'S POWER

Satan by nature is described as a liar, murderer, adversary, deceiver, sinner, enemy, and tempter (John 8:44, 1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:9, 1 John 3:8, Matthew 13:39, 1 Thessalonians 3:5). Satan hates both God and man and therefore is an enemy that we should be prepared for. Satan's power is limited to what God will allow as we see in the book of Job. We also see that Satan's power is not to be taken lightly. In the first two chapters in Job, we find that Satan had the ability to get the Sabaeans to kill Job's children. He inflicted Job with a bodily disease. Satan got the Chaldeans to kill Job's servants and steal his camels. Satan had the power to cause fire to come from heaven to kill sheep and servants. Satan also was able to cause a great wind to destroy a house and some young men. In Isaiah 14:16 looking back from the end time, we find that Satan had enough influence to make the earth tremble and shake kingdoms. Even Michael the archangel seemed to exercise care in the way that he dealt with Satan (Jude 9). The demons under him also possess power, and there are lots of them. In Mark 5:1-17 we find that a "Legion" of demons took possession of a man. Among the Romans a "legion" was numbering from 4,200 to 6,000 men. This demon-possessed man was seemingly insane and could not be chained up, for he would break the chains. Jesus cast the demons out of the man, and they went into a herd of pigs. About 2,000 pigs ran down a steep bank into the sea and killed themselves. In Luke 13:16 we find a woman who had a demon-caused illness for 18 years. What we have here is a very real and powerful enemy of mankind.

THE CHRISTIAN NEED NOT FEAR HIM

The Christian needs to be aware of this enemy to successfully deal with his tactics; however, the Christian need not fear him. This can be seen in the following Scriptures.

1 John 4:3-4: “and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 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.”

James 4:7: “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

1 Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

Romans 8:38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Hebrews 2:13-16: “And again, ‘I will put My trust in Him.’ And again, ‘Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me.’ Since then 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; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.”

SATAN'S TACTICS

It is to our benefit to recognize some of our enemy’s tactics. When you know how the enemy works you are not as likely to be caught in one of his snares. This knowledge can also be used to help others. This is by no means an exhaustive examination of Satan's tactics, but it should be enough to get you thinking. We are indeed in a spiritual war (Ephesians 6:12) and one sure way to get wounded in war is not to keep an eye open for the enemy!

Satan blinds people’s minds so that they do not receive the truth.

2 Corinthians 4:4: “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.”

Satan snatches away seeds of truth planted in people's hearts.

Matthew 13:19: "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.”

Satan deceives people by showing signs and wonders

Mark 13:22: “for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray.” (See also 2 Thessalonians 2:9, Revelation 19:20.)

Satan has his own religious leaders disguised as Apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15: “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.”
(See also 2 Peter 2:1-3, Matthew 13:39.)

Consider the many cults that we have today. They use the name of Jesus and use some of the same terminology as Christians. Often leaders in these cults were at one time in a Christian church. In a sense Satan has joined the church to try to lead it astray.

Satan uses these teachers to teach doctrines of demons and the deep things of Satan.

1 Timothy 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.” (See also Ephesians 4:14.)

False doctrines about God, Jesus and salvation are doctrines of demons. The enemy is very subtle in his approach at times. You do not have to be a Satanist to be involved in doctrines of demons. You only need to have fallen for his deception so that you believe in a false god, a false Jesus and a false gospel.

Paul warns us of these false teachings.

Galatians 1:6-8: “I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”

(See also 2 Corinthians 11:3-4.)

Demons are sometimes what actually lie behind idols and false gods.

1 Corinthians 10:20: “No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.”
(See also Psalm 106:37-39, Deuteronomy 32:16-17, Leviticus 17:7.)

These idols were nothing but wood or stone, yet people believed they had power. Is it possible that the reason they believed this is because they saw or experienced this power? The Gentiles sacrificed to idols, yet the Apostle Paul says they sacrificed to demons. An idol is a false god. We have many false gods today that are not made from wood or stone but rather are theological. Some people involved with these false gods today experience power or see signs and wonders. Why? This is because demons have power.

Satan fills people's hearts with the desire to sin.

Acts 5:3: “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?’”

John 13:1-2: “Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him.”

We war against our own sinful flesh (Romans 7:14-25) and sometimes, as we see here, Satan can enter our thoughts. This is why you cannot do just any old thing that feels good. There is indeed pleasure in sin, but it always has consequences (2 Thessalonians 2:12, 2 Peter 2:12-15, Romans 1:32-2:2, Proverbs 14:12).

Satan will use our unwillingness to forgive against us.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11: “But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

Ephesians 4:26-27: “Be angry and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

Satan will try to break up the church from within. He will try to break up marriages, families and other relationships. When we refuse to forgive and do not try to resolve our indifferences, we give the devil a hold in which to try to break up our lives.

Satan even uses well-meaning people to try to stop God's plan.

Matthew 16:21-23: “From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.’ 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.’”

Jesus explains that Peter's rebuke is influenced by Satan. Peter meant well in that he did not want anything to happen to Jesus. Satan used this to try to hinder God's plan of reconciliation through the cross.

Satan puts thoughts into people's minds to carry out his purpose. God sometimes allows this for the purpose of chastising His people.

1 Chronicles 21:1-2: “Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel. So David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, ‘Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, and bring me word that I may know their number.’”

2 Samuel 24:1: “Now again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and it incited David against them to say, ‘Go, number Israel and Judah.’”

Here we have the anger of the Lord against Israel. We also have Satan standing against Israel. Satan worked through David, which the Lord allowed to fulfill His own judgment against Israel. We are also told in the New Testament that "whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives" (Hebrews 12:6).

God may also allow these things to keep us from falling into the error of pride.

2 Corinthians 12:7: "And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!"

What this thorn in the flesh was we do not know. Many people speculate that Paul had some sort of eye disease. This is because Paul, speaking to the Galatians, said, "I bear you witness, that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me" (Galatians 4:15). Paul also told them, "See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand" (Galatians 6:11). Whatever the thorn in the flesh was, Paul prayed three times for it to depart from him and then concluded that it was God's will for him.

Satan hinders missionary work.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.

Satan does not want anyone to come to Christ. (See also Acts 13:8-10.)

Satan is ready to accuse.

Zechariah 3:1: "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him." (See also Revelation 12:9-11.)

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin (John 16:7-8). Yet the devil is the one ready to accuse and condemn. Often as Christians we tend to want to give up when we see our own failures. We need to remember that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, but the condemnation of Christians is from the devil (Romans 8:1: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.")

Satan uses Scripture and half-truths for the purpose of deceiving.

Genesis 3:1-6: “(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) And the woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; (3) but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.’ (4) And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely shall not die! (5) For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ (6) When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

The first thing the serpent (Satan) did was question God's word (verse 1). Then Eve made the mistake of adding to what God said (verse 3); God did not say anything about touching the tree. Next the serpent contradicted God's word (verse 4). Both Eve and Adam did in fact die, in two ways: (1) Spiritual death is alienation from the life of God; a state of condemnation (Romans 7:9-11 and 8:5-13, Ephesians 2:1-5 and 4:18); and (2) They also later died physically. There will be no more death in heaven (Revelation 21:4).

Matthew 4:1-11: “(1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. (3) And the tempter came and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ (4) But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’ (5) Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You’; and ‘On their hands they will bear You up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ (7) Jesus said to him, ‘On the other hand, it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ (8) Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; (9) and he said to Him, ‘All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.’ (10) Then Jesus said to him, ‘Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’ (11) Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”

After fasting for forty days, turning stones into bread might seem like a reasonable choice. Jesus did multiply the loaves and fishes (John 6:9-13) so we know that He could do this if He wanted to. Satan tried to get Jesus to sin against God. Jesus instead countered all the temptations, starting with "it is written". We need to be aware that Satan may try to twist Scripture; yet we should put our trust in God's written word and not in ourselves.

THE MANY FORMS OF TEMPTATION

Our temptation often comes in the form of our own lust, appealing to our senses; in other words what we see, and feel can become our temptation. When we give in to our own fleshly desires and fall into sin. The result is spiritual death.

I John 2:16: “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

Galatians 5:19-21: “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

James 1:13-15: “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

GOD WILL HELP US THROUGH THESE TEMPTATIONS

1 Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

IF WE DO NOT WANT TO FALL INTO SATAN’S SNARES, THEN WE MUST CLING TO WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY TOLD US

Psalms 119:11: “Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.”

Psalms 37:30-31: “The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.”

Job 23:12: “I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

(Job was tested more than most of us, and he did not waver in his faith in God. In the end he was blessed with more than what he lost; Job 42:7, and 12-17.)

Luke 8:15: “And the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”

I John 2:14: “I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”

Psalm 1:1-3: “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.”

Josh 1:8: "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

Ephesians 6:11-18: “(11) Put on the full armor of God, that you may 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. (13) Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (14) Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (15) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (18) With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.

2 Timothy 3:16-17: “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

TO THE NON-BELIEVER

I would like to conclude this section with a word of exhortation by quoting the following from The Christian’s Reasonable Service, Volume I, Chapter 9, by Wilhelmus a Brakel, Th.F.:

“First of all I wish to address myself to the unconverted, stating that as long as you remain unconverted, you are subject to the power of the devil, having the devil as your father. ‘Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do’ (John 8:44). The devil is lord and master over you and he is at work in you. ‘The spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience’ (Eph. 2:2). You are his captive and in bondage to him. ‘And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will’ (2 Tim. 2:26). He frequently moves you to commit acts, the commission of which you would have never deemed possible. He thus moved Judas to betray the Lord Jesus and afterward to hang himself. The devil often keeps you out of church, especially when he knows that the sermon to be preached could be a choice means to your conversion. During the sermon he seeks to detract you by infusing other thoughts, holding such matters before you which he knows you delight in, thereby facilitating your meditation upon them. If you hear something that makes an impression upon you, he seeks in every possible way to rob you of this impression (Mat. 13:19). The devil prevents you from comprehending the power of the gospel. ‘But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe

not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them' (2 Cor. 4:3–4). Do not think that this renders you innocent, for you yourself are also blind and of an evil disposition, willingly rejecting the gospel. The devil, however, often creates the occasion for this, stimulates you, and you then obey him.

“Carefully meditate upon all this and apply it to yourself. Consider that you are a slave of the devil, that he is your lord and master, that he controls you, engages you to be active in his cause, and will soon drag you as his prey to hell to be eternally tormented there. What a dreadful condition to be subject to such an abominable tyrant—the archenemy of God, Christ, and also yourself—who in bitter hatred murders your soul and eternally separates you from God and His blessed Christ! Therefore have mercy upon your own soul, wake up, hate the devil and his work, flee from him, bid his kingdom farewell, and surrender yourself to the sweet, easy, and lovely government of the Lord Jesus Christ—a government which will culminate in eternal salvation. Oh, that you would hear me! May the Lord save you.” (End of quote)

INTERESTING QUOTATIONS

“Mammon is the largest slave-holder in the world.”
F. Saunders

“The devil can cite scripture for his purpose.”
William Shakespeare

“The devil hath power to assume a pleasing shape.”
William Shakespeare

“Heaven's gates are not so highly arched as princes' palaces; they that enter there must go upon their knees.”
Daniel Webster

“The road to Hell is paved with good intentions.”
Samuel Johnson

He (Satan) sometimes slanders God to men; as to Eve.... sometimes men to God; as Job.... and continually, man to man.”
John Robins