

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 6 (February 3-9, 2019)

We have seen the origin of Satan as well as his temptations and his only question. This week, we will see that though he sought to be above God, he is inferior to Him in every way.

Sunday, February 3 (read 1 John 4:1-6)

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

I spend a lot of time teaching the difference between the Biblically correct worldview and the politically correct worldview. The spirit of Satan's man, the antichrist, is already operating in our world trying to create an atmosphere in which the one-world global government can be established. The "inclusive" people accept everyone **except** Jesus and His true followers (v. 1-3). Although Satan is a powerful force, he can do **nothing** without first getting permission from the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why today's featured verse proclaims, "the one who is in you is **greater** than the one who is in the world" (v. 4, emphasis mine). The devil will make sure that those who have rejected Jesus will think a Biblical worldview is a joke, but those who have found salvation through the living Christ will grow more deeply in love with Him because of the Word of God and the preaching and teaching of those who are called to proclaim His message (v. 5-6). Pray that God will use various ministries to reach many for Him!

Monday, February 4 (read Job 1:6-22)

The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." (Job 1:12a)

You can see from today's reading that Satan is still allowed to attend staff meetings with God (v. 6-7). The Lord points out that He has one faithful follower in Job (v. 8). The devil believes that Job would deny God if his blessings and his **wealth** were taken away (v. 9-11). God allows Satan to take away everything Job has, but He sets definite limits by telling the devil, "but on the man himself do not lay a finger" (v. 12). The rest of today's reading tells how Job remains faithful, even though he suffers tremendous loss (v. 13-22). God's man acknowledges that everything he had came from God, so the Lord is within His rights to take it all away (v. 20-22). How would you do if God allowed Satan to take away your physical possessions?

Tuesday, February 5 (read Job 2:1-10)

The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." (Job 2:6)

Satan does not give up easily, so he comes before the Lord at another staff meeting to make a second request. God points out the righteousness of Job even though Satan "incited me against him **without any reason**" (v. 1-3, emphasis mine). The devil believes that God's man will curse Him if he loses his **health** (v. 4-5). Once again, the Lord allows Satan to attack Job, but He sets limits: "but you must spare his life" (v. 6). Since you now know that Satan believes you will curse God if you should lose your **health** and **wealth**, beware of those ministries that emphasize only those two blessings while neglecting **holiness** and **righteousness**. Job stands tall against this second attack also, even when his wife is among his critics (v. 9). Are you prone to "accept good from God, and not trouble" (v. 10)? Tough times are headed for America. Be sure that you praise Him no matter what happens to your health and wealth! Nothing will come into your life without God's permission, so Satan cannot take away anything that the Lord wants you to keep!

Wednesday, February 6 (read Luke 22:31-34)

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)

This passage teaches the same concept as our last two devotions, but this one is really special because it is from the New Testament, directly from the mouth of Jesus Christ. Don't miss the fact that Satan had to go to Jesus asking for permission to tempt Simon Peter. Why would the Lord allow his request to be granted? Jesus knew that Peter needed to be humbled and broken, because he considered himself to be superior to the other disciples. He **thought** he was ready to go to prison or to die for the Lord (v. 33). After he fell to the temptation, he was reinstated (John 21:15-22) and filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-21). That is the significance of Jesus' proclamation: “But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers” (v. 32). The intercessory prayer of Jesus will keep you safe during Satan's attacks as well!

Thursday, February 7 (read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15)

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Paul is warning his Corinthian readers that false prophets have infiltrated their ministry. The first twelve verses in this chapter set the stage for his warning. You should not be surprised that many of Satan's workers disguise themselves as apostles of Christ, because “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light” (v. 13-14). If the devil showed his true colors when he comes to tempt you, his message would be rejected immediately. Instead, his message comes to you through nice people who have become converts of false religions. An “angel of light” visited with Mohammed (Muslims) and Joseph Smith (Mormons) to give them new “truth and light.” Both of these religions deny the Trinity as well as the deity of Jesus. Beware of **anyone** who comes to your door “and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached” (v. 4). Satan does not have horns and a long tail. He comes to you in very attractive packages!

Friday, February 8 (read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10)

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. (2 Corinthians 12:7)

Paul begins this chapter by describing a trip he took to paradise where he saw “things that man is not permitted to tell” (v. 1-4). Even **he** doesn't know whether it was a vision or a real trip (v. 2-3). Paul disguises his personal identity until he gets to today's featured verse where he uses the pronoun “me.” In this particular case, Satan is given blame for his infirmity (v. 7), but God will not take it away from him. It is apparent that God does allow Satan to attack us physically to accomplish His purposes (just as with Job), but not all infirmities come directly from Satan. This episode with Paul should prove that not everyone experiences physical healing in every case. God wants his **grace** to be displayed in Paul, a fact that the apostle finally figures out after making three requests for healing (v. 8). Are you willing to use your weaknesses for God? Can you thank him for the physical limitations you have? Can you agree that He alone gets the glory when He places His treasures in jars of clay (2 Cor. 4:7)?

Saturday, February 9 (read Zechariah 3:1-10)

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. (Zechariah 3:1)

This Joshua (spelled Jeshua in Ezra and Nehemiah) is the high priest in Jerusalem while the second temple is being built. He represents the sinful nation of Israel and the **grace** that God displays in saving the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel from destruction. Satan is always present to accuse the Jewish people, both then and now (v. 1). The entire world hates the Jews and blames most of the problems with the Muslim nations on Israel. From this Scripture, you can see **why** this is so and **who** is really behind the accusations. This entire text is a beautiful picture of salvation when God takes away our filthy rags of self-righteousness (Isaiah 64:6) and clothes us in His “Robe of Righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10). The **Branch** (v. 8) is Jesus and the “**single day to remove sin**” (v. 9) is Good Friday. Praise Him today for His total victory over Satan and his devilish agenda!