

8 January 2017

The nature of Satan – Pt 1 He is a deceiver

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Warning: Be NOT ignorant of Satan's devices.

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2Cor 2:11).

When a lost person has their eyes open and turns "from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God..." (Acts 26: 18) the first thing they need to learn, and so not be ignorant of is the devices of Satan, "the god of this world" that "hath blinded the minds of them which believe not" (2Cor.4: 4). In the twinkling of an eye, in the instant a lost person believes the gospel of Christ crucified he is transformed from being ignorant of his blindness by the devil to suddenly being aware of his historic blindness and the power of Satan to deceive him as a believer.

2. Satan's goal is to deceive the whole world and hence is his principal device.

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Rev.12: 9).

Where there is deception, Satan is the instigator. He blinds the lost, and seeks to deceive the man of God. "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (2Cor.11: 14), and his ministers transform themselves "as the ministers of righteousness" (2Cor.11: 15).

Cast your mind back to the first account in the scriptures of Satan attacking a person, where he "beguiled Eve through his subtilty..." (2Cor.11: 3, see also Gen.3: 1). Satan, the old serpent is known to have beguiled Eve, in other words deceived her.

3. He is the father of lies

"Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (Jn.8: 44).

Satan abides "not in the truth, because there is no truth in him", but rather he speaks lies. When we, our families, work colleagues, or brethren lie then it is likely that Satan is the instigator of those lies, because he is the father of lies.

Additional comments on our three points.

The devil does not always deceive plainly, but rather as we saw with Eve he twisted the words of God, he changed them slightly, added a little leaven and that was enough to deceive Eve into believing a lie.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Rome's deception by Satan was apparent to Luther and others who broke away from her clutches in 1520, yet over the past 400-plus years Rome has added words to the Protestants Bible via footnotes, laid a cloak over her works where she burnt Protestants at the stake, and beguiled many who once believed the truth to coming back under her satanic headship.

Question to think about.

What is paramount to safe-guarding ourselves from being deceived by the devil's lies?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Do not abandon any of God's words, as Eve did, no not one.

Remember the biblical nature of Satan is a deceiver.

Remind others that the biblical nature of Satan is to deceive, whether over weeks, months, or 500 years. Time is of no significance to the devil in deceiving God's children. He will do so by changing one of God's words, or covering up lies to make it look like truth, because he is the father of lies.

"Be not deceived" (1Cor.6: 9), and remember that Satan is a deceiver.