

15 January 2017

The nature of Satan – Pt 2 He is a destroyer.

In our previous study we began with a warning – “Be not ignorant of Satan’s devices.” Let us continue to establish the nature and devices of our adversary the devil, who is a destroyer.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The devil is a destroyer.

“Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer” (1Cor. 10: 10).

During the time of Israel’s journeying in the wilderness some committed fornication, tempted the Lord, or murmured against Him. As a consequence to their sin they were physically destroyed. And Paul uses Israel’s sin and consequences of destruction “for ensamples...for our admonition” (1Cor. 10: 11) so when we think we are immuned to falling we would think again! Yes, we will not be tempted more than we can bear, but beware lest we fall and suffer spiritual destruction.

2. The Lord uses the devil to destroy His children’s enemies.

“For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you” (Ex.12: 23).

One of the greatest stories that the Israelites tell their children is how the Lord would not suffer the destroyer to destroy their forefathers in Egypt, and smote their enemies. Even though the Jew is partially blinded today his heavenly Father still uses the devil to destroy their enemies. Paul points out that it is “a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you” (2Thes.1: 6).

3. The devil seeks to devour whom he may.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1Pet.5: 8):

Our final point in this study begins with a warning – “Be sober, be vigilant”. Why? “Because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”. The devil is like a lion that walks around roaring, but you cannot see him, and he never sleeps. He seeks whom he may. Is it any wonder that we are warned to be sober, and vigilant?

Additional comments on our three points.

All of us (believers) are attacked by this spiritual being that hates us. Just when we think we are okay be especially aware, because that is when we are at our weakest, and a fall is likely. That is exactly the moment the devil has been waiting for, to devour and destroy, in part or totally.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

One of my destructive thoughts was “I have done nothing wrong”, perhaps that stood out as sin.

Question to think about.

What is the difference between a young believer that is taught by his church minister or teacher that the devil does not exist and the believer that tells himself he has done nothing wrong?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

No difference. They have both said “pekka boo” to the devil that has been following them around waiting for them to make a mistake, waiting for them to be at their weakest, most vulnerable. And when we are either ignorant of him or feel we are above attack, then we are no different to the young deer at the back of the pack who is open to attack by predators, and becomes injured or dies. He is tempting destruction. So “be sober, be vigilant; because the devil, as a roaring lion” walks about “seeking whom he may devour”. Because by nature our enemy is a destroyer.