

CONTENTS

Foreword	7
Preface	11
1. Prime Target of the Devil	13
2. Look Out for Satan's Tricks!	21
3. How Secure Is the Saint?	35
4. Can a Demon Invade a Saint?	55
5. Is Demon Affliction Confined to the Unsaved?	67
6. What Protection Do Believers Have Against Demons?	79
7. What Do the Scriptures Say?	97
8. Demonization in Its Milder Forms	111
9. Moderate and Severe Demonization	125
10. Demonization and the Christian	141
11. Mediumship in Pious Masquerade	169
12. Deliverance from Demon Power	187
Notes	213
Bibliography	217

1

PRIME TARGET OF THE DEVIL

In an age of accelerated activity of the powers of darkness, the question of the moment is how far Satan and demons can go in working havoc in the people of God. The answer to this problem is pressing in its urgency because of widespread ignorance and uncertainty that exist on the subject among God's people. The rapid spread of occultism in our times has, to some extent, dissipated disbelief in the reality and inworking of demonic forces in the lives of the unregenerate. People who once viewed Satan and evil spirits as figments of the imagination or, at best, hangovers from medieval superstition, are more inclined today to believe in a real devil and demons. These sinister beings are held not only to influence people but actually to indwell them and upon occasion to be exorcized from them.

But strangely enough, while many unsaved people sense the reality and power of the realm of evil supernaturalism, many Christians remain skeptical and naive. Usually believers readily grant the wide range of demonic operation in the unsaved. Yet, often the concept of the extent of satanic and demonic activity in the life of a believer is circumscribed and inadequate. It tends to be theological and theoretical rather than biblical and practical.

The nature of the times in which we live calls for clarification of the precise role Satan and demons may play in the life and experience of a believer. This in turn necessitates a

study of the career of Satan and his kingdom of demon helpers. The purpose is to show why these powers of darkness are arrayed against man, particularly against regenerate man.

FACING A FEARFUL FOE

Although there are many things about Satan and demonic powers that revealed truth does not tell us, one thing is transparently clear. In these sinister spirit personalities, humanity, especially redeemed humanity, has an implacable enemy. This foe is dedicated to alienate man from God and to keep him from Christ's saving grace. When men do believe the gospel, Satan exerts every effort to turn them away from God's will. He knows that once they are saved they are beyond his power insofar as their position before God and their eternal destiny are concerned. So he determines to do them as much damage as he can, seeking to ruin their Christian life and testimony for God.

Satan is relentless and pitiless in his hatred for God and the people of God. What makes the devil a fearful foe is the fact of his great power. This is augmented by the assistance of innumerable fallen angels or demons. Consequently, satanic forces constitute a mighty, evil spiritual reality to be seriously reckoned with by the entire fallen race, both redeemed and unredeemed.

Actually Satan is the most powerful person in the universe after God.¹ Although he is a creature and a vast gap separates him as such from the Creator, he is the first creature and evidently the most glorious of all creatures. Even though he fell and his glory was corrupted by sin, he is still correctly styled as "his infernal majesty." Dave Breese discusses Satan's ten most believable lies under this apt designation.²

Our Lord plainly intimated that Satan is a king and presides over a kingdom (Matthew 12:26). As a potentate reign-

ing over the realm of spiritual darkness, Satan extends his sway over the evil angels or demons. Through these "principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and wicked spirits in the heavenlies" (Ephesians 6:12), he exerts dominion over the fallen human race. As men open the door to him by sin and rebellion against God, he enters to dominate and enslave.

WHY SATAN AND DEMONS OPPOSE MEN

The malignity of Satan and his hosts against mankind reaches back to the creation of Lucifer and the angels in dim antiquity. According to intimations given through the prophets Isaiah (14:12-14) and Ezekiel (28:11-19), Satan fell from his original sinless state. When he rebelled against the Creator, Satan drew with him a great number of his angelic colleagues. These apparently became the fallen angels or demons (cf. Revelation 12:7-9).

Satan's fall and the entrance of sin into a hitherto sinless universe presented a grave problem. How would the infinitely holy and loving Creator deal with sin and rebellion in His angelic creatures? Would He allow them to go on forever as free and unimprisoned rebels to roam His universe? Or would He institute a plan to bring an end to sin by rigidly isolating sinners?

It was this latter plan of eventually isolating sin and sinners that God had in mind from all eternity. To accomplish it He created man upon the earth. This planet was selected to be man's abode, evidently because sin began here in connection with the fall of Satan and the angels (Genesis 1:2; cf. Job 38:5-7). Here, where sin arose, God would show how He, in His infinite love and holiness, would deal with it and put it down forever.

To this end God created man innocent, but with the power of free choice to obey or disobey his Creator. Satan's malignant subtlety was directed against man because the evil

one desired to frustrate the divine plan and enslave the human race. This he accomplished, at least to a degree, by the temptation and fall of man.

But Satan did not fully reckon on God's gracious program of redemption in Christ. He failed to count on its final outcome in effecting his own undoing and that of the rebel angels and wicked men who would follow him (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:11-15).

Satan in Scripture revelation is presented as irremediably confirmed in rebellion against God. He is also portrayed as unchangeably dedicated to doing as much damage as possible to mankind, especially the redeemed. His attack upon the saints is relentless and implacable. He opposes them as he opposed Christ when Christ was upon the earth. The saints represent his ultimate destruction, as Christ does, because they are united to Christ and share His triumph over him and his hosts (1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 1:20-23; Revelation 20:1-3, 10).

The saints must realize that they are the bull's-eye, as it were, against which Satan and his demon helpers aim their most fiery darts. They constitute Satan's deadliest foes and the greatest threat to his authority and power. This is why saints dare not be oblivious of Satan's malignity nor "ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 3:11).

It is high time for believers to see Satan and demonic powers in their true light and full Scripture perspective. The age of the demon or the era of the occult in which we find ourselves is no time to be naive concerning the powers of darkness. To deny the reality of Satan and demons has little appeal these days. Such a conclusion may satisfy a naturalistic theorist; however, it carries little weight with a man who gives the Scriptures credence or who honestly faces the facts of life.

On the other hand, many who hold Scripture in high esteem and respect its testimony concerning Satan and demons, in actual practice entertain a concept of these forces

that is theoretical rather than scriptural and practical, especially as far as demons are concerned. Today many believers simply do not face the issue of the degree to which demonic powers can take over in their lives if they open the door to them.

There is, in fact, a strong tendency among many Christians to be naive concerning their arch foe, Satan, and his demon assistants. This is especially so in relation to the question of demonism as it may affect the saint. Such a situation is perilous, for to be ignorant or misinformed on this subject is weighted with dire risks. This becomes apparent when the Christian warrior realizes that he is the target of demonic strategy and attack.

In its spiritual conflict, the church of Christ must obviously be knowledgeable about its foes. In wars on the human plane, military strategists are keenly aware of the necessity of knowing the enemy. Accordingly, they employ intricate networks of intelligence and counterintelligence. Missions involving espionage are frequently as crucial to winning a war as actual battles. Without intelligence of the enemy's strength and position, the results of any military encounter would be highly dubious. Yet believers sometimes display an obvious disinterest in what the Bible reveals about Satan and demons. Or, what is even worse, they manifest a morbid fear of such a study. This apathy or dread is almost as perilous as the opposite extreme of fanatical occupation with evil. Such extremists ride demonism as a hobby, seeing demons in everybody and everything. Obviously these aberrations are a delight to Satan. They prove the subtlety of his stratagems by which he outwits his opponents and gains advantage over them.

The only sane approach is to know the enemy. Only as his wiles are laid bare will the believer be able to anticipate and outmaneuver him. Satan's chief tactics are to hide his identity and his assaults. The Christian must recognize him and anticipate his moves.

Only as the believer knows the powers of darkness will he be able to win against them in his superior position and strength in Christ. The rampant demon activity of these last days (1 Timothy 4:1) issues a clarion call to every friend of Christ: "Know your foe!"

WHAT THE DEVIL FEARS MOST

Although Satan's foes do not always know their enemy, one thing is sure. Satan *always* knows his foes. He is thoroughly acquainted with them and is quite aware of those who fall to his strategies and are consequently comparatively harmless. He also knows those who recognize and count on their position in Christ and who find and fulfill God's will for their lives. These saints are what the devil fears most, for they constitute the deadliest threat to his plans and ambitions.

It is against the latter group of saints that Satan launches his most subtle attacks. Protected with the full armor of God, they are endued with God's full power and have complete victory over Satan and his minions. Therefore Satan does his best to lure them away from trusting in the impregnable fortress of their position in Christ.

The evil one delights to see a saint become occupied with what he is or does in himself rather than with what he is or does in his position in Christ. This is tantamount to leaving the protection of the mighty fortress God has provided in Christ for the perils of the unprotected open field.

Exposed and unprotected in this manner, the Christian arouses little terror as far as Satan and demonic powers are concerned. And little wonder! The Christian is a pushover for evil powers when he tries to face them in his own strength. It is the omnipotent power of God that Satan dreads, and that power only becomes available to the believer as he counts on what Christ has done for him and is waiting to do through him in response to his faith.

This attitude of confidence in what he is in union with Christ expresses itself in what the believer thinks, says, and does. In this radiant atmosphere of faith in his crucified, risen, and ascended Lord, the believer's every thought, word, or deed becomes a terror to the enemy. Whether he prays, witnesses, worships, or just discharges the everyday duties of life, the believer who centers his faith in His divine Savior and what he is in Him is the one thing that causes the powers of darkness to tremble.

It is true, according to the old adage, that "the devil trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees." But it is just as true that he and his cohorts tremble when they see the weakest saint in any activity of the Christian life, where he puts his faith in his all-victorious Lord, for then that saint becomes their strongest foe. The powers of darkness stand in awful fear and dread of Him who "spoiled principalities and powers" and who "made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:15).

They experience that same fear and dread of any believer who will dare by faith to count on his union with his all-victorious Lord. Such a believer becomes Satan's prime target. All hell's artillery is hurled against him, because he constitutes the deadliest enemy the powers of darkness possess.