

Demons: The Enemy's Army

Number 3 in a series of messages on the unseen world

August 8 & 9, 2009

Drama, Intro:

It does sound funny in this age to say, *yes, I believe in angels and demons*. Throughout this series of messages on the unseen world, I've been maintaining that *to believe in spiritual warfare is both biblical and reasonable*. And if it is all true, then it makes sense for us to learn a little more about what is happening behind the scenes.

I was never in the military, but I know a big part of warfare has to do with understanding your enemy. With accurate information, you can better predict the probable lines of attack. In **2 Cor 2:11**, we're warned not to be ignorant of Satan's schemes so we won't be outwitted.

Eph 6:11 - take your stand against the devils' schemes.

That's what we're learning to do! In the next two weeks I'll be teaching on spiritual warfare and on what it takes to experience victory. This week we will concentrate on *the devil's army* of fallen angels, also known as *demons*.

If you wanted to know more about Nazis, you would need to learn about Hitler's philosophy, motivation, etc. If you understand the leader, you can better understand the army. So we will start off today where we left off last week when we studied the *leader* of the demons, *Satan*. I spoke from the Scriptures about his fall. Let's learn more about...

1. The Boss Below: Satan is the leader of forces that seek to pull you down into darkness. We can better understand his influence by studying his names.

Michelle recently taught a woman's Bible study on the God's names. The reason there is such emphasis on biblical names is that they speak of character. This is the case with Satan's names as well. They are descriptive. There are about 40 different titles referring to the devil. I'll highlight a few here that give us insight into his identity and strategy. The most common

name is: **oSatan** (52X) taken from Heb = adversary. He is God's rival and opposes God's people (**Zech 3:1-2; Lk 22:31** - Satan has asked to sift you as wheat). The emphasis of this name is that Satan opposes all that God and God's people are for. We want to see the seed of the gospel spread, but **Mt. 13:39** says Satan **sows weeds in the world**. He doesn't want God to reap a healthy harvest.

T - The second most common term for our enemy is... **oThe devil** (35X). Diabolos = slanderer. It comes from the word *to throw*, meaning *he hurls accusations*. He says terrible things to tear you down. *You know?* **Luke 4:2** - Jesus was tempted by *the devil*. We're told **Eph 4:27** - do not give the devil a foothold. *As we learn more about him, we won't.*

oThe ruler of this world system (**Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11**). Sometimes it looks like he rules down here, and in one way, he does. **Eph. 2:2** - he's the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. This world system rejects God's authority and centrality. The devil is behind this: **2 Cor 4:4** - The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. *Of course, it won't always be this way.*

oThe evil one **1 John 5:19** - the whole world is under the control of the evil one. He is the *intrinsically wicked* one - so corrupt that he corrupts others. **Mt 13:19** - the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown... **Jn 17:15** - My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. Bob Dylan's song: *You Gotta Serve Somebody*. Who will it be? *The evil one?* Why?

oThe destroyer **Rev 9:11** - They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. Both mean *destroyer*. The context

speaks of demons tormenting men, doing the will of their master. He is *the destroyer* of life, physical and spiritual. He destroys relationships and reputations. What he wants to do with you is to rob you of peace and joy. To ruin your life. **Jn 8:44 - a murderer from the beginning**. Don't do anything to cooperate with him carrying out this agenda.

oThe tempter Mt 4:3; 1 Th 3:5 - I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless. The form of the word indicates continuous, ongoing activity. This shows that he's always at it, enticing us to evil. *You can probably put your finger right on the area where he is bringing you the greatest temptation.*

oThe accuser Rev 12:10 - the accuser of our brothers.... Can you relate to this? He whispers in your ear: *you're no good. You're a loser; go ahead and act like it.* He likes to suggest that we aren't worthy of God's love. I respond: *that's true, but it hasn't stopped God. He loves me anyway!*

oThe deceiver Rev 20:3 - deceiving the nations.... Jn 8:44 - there is no truth in him; when he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. As the deceiver, he hides his real identity, promotes false philosophies, and sells perversion. **2 Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ**. We must be wary. Near the end, Jesus said, **Mt 24:24 - False Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible**.

oThe prince of demons Mt 12:24 - Beelzebub (lord of flies), **the prince of demons...** Beelzebub (lord of filth). **Mt 25:41 - the devil and his angels**. Rev 12 too. The boss below uses of a host of evil angels that are intent on bringing people into bondage. They promote his counter-kingdom.

2. The Underworld Workers: *Demons are the evil angels that followed Satan in his rebellion.*

Before I summarize demons' activities, let me say that belief in evil spirits is universal. Belief is documented by archeology from every continent, century and culture. Descriptions of demons and their depictions in art have so much in common that *to conclude they are real is the most reasonable way to account for these similarities*. And certain atrocities committed by infamous characters through history cannot be attributed to mere mental disorders. Anything but demonic influence would seem to be an inadequate explanation. Some mass murderers even admit that they were motivated, even empowered by demons. This doesn't lessen human responsibility, but explains the evil energy. Sound social psychology and cultural anthropology both point to the existence of evil spirit beings. ***We can better understand their influence by studying their activities.***

T - I'll summarize 4 things they can do:

oThey carry out the devil's agenda.

As good angels serve God, demons exist to serve the devil. Also, like angels, they are spirit beings - **Mt 10:1 - evil spirits**. Satan is dependent upon demons because, unlike God, he is not omnipresent. He uses his army to oppose God and God's people. This will continue until the end of the age: **Rev 16:14 ...demons performing miraculous signs, ...go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty**. That's Satan's agenda, to promote rebellion. *More specifically:*

oThey counterfeit Christianity.

They present false faiths as true. **1 Tim 4:1,2 - ...in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons by means of the hypocrisy of liars...** Demons work at confusing people. They find it easy to mislead many by spreading twisted teachings. To make the counterfeits more attractive,

demons disguise themselves 2 Cor 11:14,15 ...for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. So, It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Imposters offer attractive alternatives.

The Bible has a term for the condition of allowing anything to substitute for the real God and become central in your life: *idolatry*. False religions sacrifice not to God, but to demons (Deut 32:17). An extreme level: Ps 106:36,37 - They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. **oThey cause physical troubles.**

Demons afflict people Lk 13:11 - a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. *That's how a few of us feel after working on this morning's bark dust project here!* 2 Cor 12:7 - Paul referred to his thorn in the flesh as a messenger (angel) of Satan. Various diseases are mentioned in many examples in Scripture, even mental derangement. Yet not all mental or physical illnesses are a result of demonic activity. They are clearly distinguished in Mat 4:24 and Luke 7:21. Interesting account in Mk 9:20 a spirit in a boy saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Later Jesus said, This kind can come out only by prayer (29). *Don't talk to the demon, talk to God.*

oThey control things and people.

Things: Demons exert control in the political sphere, (Dan 10:13,20). They can also use natural phenomena to afflict men (Job 1:19 - wind).

People: There is a verb meaning *to be demon possessed* and it is used 13X in NT. This term describes a level of demonic oppression beyond what can be resisted - beyond mere influence - it describes control. An extreme example is found in Luke 8:27,29 - Jesus came upon a demon-possessed man. The description of this guy gives you a picture of the extent to which someone can be totally

dominated, by a demon or demons. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. The demon many times ...had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. Demonic control goes to its ultimate extent with the one who will be known as the antichrist (2 Th 2:3,4). Though all of that is scary, we have confidence in Christ! Mk 1:27- When people first heard Jesus, they were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him!"

T - This leads to where we've been headed. Let's look at our Lord in light of what we know about demons. Though there is a boss below with underworld workers, we serve...

3. Our God Above:

Jesus, our light and life, has the power to deliver his people from any danger. We can better understand his authority by studying God's Word.

oEph 1:21,22 Christ is far above all rule and authority, power and dominion (we saw that these terms refer to ranks of spiritual beings), and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet... Jesus Christ rules on high.

o1 Peter 3:22 Jesus is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. We've seen that demons are powerful, but Jesus is so much more so. *He is mighty to save!* He wins! And with him, we do also.

oCol 2:15 Jesus has disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. What does this mean to us?

o1 John 4:1-4 test spirits. Ends with You...have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. There are no biblical examples of a

Christian being possessed. God's indwelling Holy Spirit is apparently unwilling to share his place in your heart!

oRom 8:38,39 - I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Concl: I want Dayspring to be a healthy church, comprised of passionate, reproductive followers of Jesus. That's why I teach the Bible. In most conclusions, I challenge you to *do this* or *do that* (examples). But for today, I simply want to grasp that *Jesus, our light and life, has the power to set you free - to deliver you from danger.* Do you believe that? *That's all I want from you and for you today.* In our closing prayer I'll give you an opportunity to *state your belief* in the power of Jesus Christ over anything and everything! This is where health, wholeness, and revival begin.

Prayer: Lord, we believe that Jesus Christ is far above all rule and authority, power and dominion and that every angel and every demon is in submission to you, Lord. You disarmed the enemies and triumphed over them by the cross. We believe that nothing, not even any spirit, is able to separate us from your love. Thank you, Lord, that you are greater and more powerful than anything. We are dependent upon you, we rely on you, and we worship you!

More Meat (extra verses and ideas that didn't fit into the message):

Rev 12:9 equates all names.

Satan, the devil is the ruler in this present evil age (Gal 1:4).

1 John 2:13,14 you have overcome the evil one; Eph 6:16 mentions the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Matt 10:1 Jesus gave his followers authority over demons

Gal 1:3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

Col 2:10 the head over every power and authority

Every tongue will confess, every knee will bow Phil 2:11.

Mt 8:16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Mk 9:20 a spirit in a boy saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 29 He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer.

Luke 10:17-20 - The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."
¹⁸ He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

Satan's angels are mentioned: 2 Pet 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; Rev 12:7 the dragon and his angels fought back

Mk 9:20

So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it

immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. ²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

²³ "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

²⁹ He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Eph 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Point: If we learn one thing about demons, it should be that they are not as powerful as Jesus. What a great lesson for us! We should rely on Christ's power.

Rev 12:4,9 - Dragon, serpent of old, the devil swept away a third of the stars with him when he fell. Fallen angels = demons.

His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. **9** - The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads

the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Some suffering comes by the influence of evil forces. Job, Mark 9:20-29.

Demons demonstrate knowledge: they know who Jesus is Mk 1:34; 5:7;

They show unusual power Mk 5:1-25; Acts 19:13-16 man with demonic strength overpowered 7 guys. Terrible thing from Rev.