YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL
I Peter 5:8

I. THE UNSEEN WORLD

Today, in this scientific and "enlightened" age there is a renewed interest in the "Spirit realm," the supernatural, the occult. "In past days witchcraft, seances, magic, and fortunetelling were prevalent in areas dominated by ignorance and superstition." (The Unseen World, Richard W. DeHaan, p. 1).

Such preoccupation with the Spirit world was (to the unregenerate world) a delusion of the "Dark Ages," not reality to the "thinking" mind of the 20th century. However, in recent years (the 1980's and 90's) there is a resurgence of interest into the Spirit realm, the domain of the unseen.

Examples:

--Fortune telling (is big business today)
Automatic Dictation (novelist Steven King)

--The Movies
The Exorcist, Star Wars, Close Encounters, Alien, Poltergeist, Child's Play (a demon possessed doll), Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (spiritual contact with other people; eastern meditation)

--TV
Cartoons filled with ghosts, demons, and evil and "good" spirit beings

--The New Age Movement
Contact with the Spirit world; claim to have "guides," channels" to make contact with the spirits of the dead, "unseen friends"

Though much of the world is becoming more and more cognizant of a spirit world (though a confused and often distorted view), the Bible has the authoritative word regarding spiritual reality and entities.

Whether you realize it or not, in the invisible realm, you have spiritual foes and friends. A conflict exists between the host of darkness and the army of heaven.

A battle rages between evil angels and good angels.

As has been popularized in the recently published Christian novels This Present Darkness and Piercing the Darkness by Frank Peretti, a war does go on between our ministering spirits (angels - Heb. 1:14) and our adversary (I Pet. 5:8).

This conflict described in Daniel 10:13 is explained in Ephesians 6:10-12.

The Bible teaches that many millennia ago, God created an innumerable host of angels. One of these angelic creatures was named Lucifer.

SEE: Ezek. 28:12-15 (the king of Tyre - describes the prince of the kingdom of Tyre --- Satan; just as Michael is the prince who stands up for Israel [Dan. 12:1], Satan is often personalized as a prince of the world's kingdoms [Dan. 10:3]).

SEE: Isaiah 14:12-14 (the fall of Satan, king of Babylon).

When Satan fell, he coaxed 1/3 of the angelic realm to follow him in his rebellion.

--"The angels who sinned" - II Pet. 2:4

--"The angels who did not keep their proper domain" - Jude 6

--"A third of the stars of heaven" - Rev. 12:

II. THE NATURE OF SATAN

Satan is a spirit being. A personal being, not a mere force of evil. "Satan" is not

merely the devil with the "D" missing (i.e. "evil"). He is a wicked angel with intellect (mt. 4:1-11; II Cor. 2:11 - "devices"), emotion (Rev. 12:17), a will (II Tim. 2:26) (He can think, feel hatred and anger, and choose to oppose God and godliness).

For example, demons are said to "believe (rationally) . . . and tremble (emotionally)" (James 2:19).

Satan is not a mere influence. 174 times in the Bible a personal pronoun is used in addressing him. He is referred to as "he," never "it."

As a personal being, He speaks (Mt. 4), travels from place to place (I Pet. 5:8), expresses anger (Rev. 12:17), is proud (I Tim. 3:6; Is. 14:12-14), etc.

III. THE NAMES OF SATAN

We can learn a great deal about who Satan is by looking at the different names, titles, and representations of him throughout Scripture:

*SATAN (Zech. 3:1; Mt. 4:10; Rev. 12:9, 20:2), used 52 times, comes from the Hebrew word "satan" meaning adversary or opposer.

*DEVIL (Mt. 4:1, 13:39; Eph. 4:27; Rev. 12:9, 20:2), used 35 times, comes from the Greek word "diabolos" meaning slanderer, accuser.

*LUCIFER (*s. 14:12) means son of the morning, shining one, or light bearer. Even though this describes him before his fall, Satan currently "transforms himself into an angel of light" to deceive the world (II Cor. 11:14).

*ANOINTED CHERUB (Ezek. 28:14) indicates that he had one of the highest (if not the highest) ranking of all the angels.

*EVIL ONE (Mt. 13:19, 38; Jn. 17:15; Eph. 6:16; I Jn. 5:18, 19) describes him as the personification of evil.

*RULER OF THIS WORLD (Jn. 12:31, 14:30, 16:11) refers to his power over the evil world system of men and demons.

*GOD OF THIS AGE (II Cor. 4:4) is used in reference to his power to blind the minds of the world to the gospel.

*PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR (Eph. 2:2) describes his pervasive spiritual influence.

*SERPENT (Gen. 3:1; II Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9, 20:2) portrays his deceit and craftiness.

*DRAGON (Rev. 12:3, 7, 9) indicates his fierce nature and power to destroy.

*ACCUSER (Rev. 12:10).

*TEMPTER (Mt. 4:3; I Thes. 3:5)

*DECEIVER (Rev. 12:9; 20:3).

*MURDERER (Jn. 8:44)

*LIAR (Jn. 8:44).

*SINNER (I Jn. 3:8).

*BEELZEBUB, RULER OF THE DEMONS (Mt. 10:25, 12:24, 27; Mk. 3:22; Lk. 11:15), literally translated means lord of the flies, the lord of filth.

*BELIAL (II Cor. 6:15) means worthless or wicked.

*ROARING LION (I Pet. 5:8) describes him as hungry and on the prowl to devour Christians.

*ENEMY (Mt. 13:39

*THE WICKED ONE

IV. THE DEVICES OF SATAN

Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "...For we are not ignorant of his devices" (II Cor. 2:11).

"Devices" = Planned out schemes; the wicked plots of Satan.

What are Satan's devices?

A. His Devices Toward the Unsaved

1. Satan causes evil persons to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Paul said to Elymas the sorcerer, "O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" (Acts 13:10).

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another Gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:7).

The devil uses those under his control to change, modify, or twist God's revelation into something is another of a different kind (Satanic).

2. Satan hinders the gospel from being understood and believed.

"When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart" (Mt. 13:19).

"...the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:4).

The devil opposes the spreading of the Gospel. If it is preached but

not understood, he will strive to keep the unregenerate mind in this state of blindness to the truth. He may use circumstances to divert interest or he may blind the person to the need for personal application.

3. Satan puts thoughts of wickedness in the hearts of unbelievers to oppose Christ.

"And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him [Christ]" (Jn. 13:2).

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lust [desires] of your father ye will do" (Jn. 8:44).

Satan stirs up heath to oppose righteousness (Mt. 19:23-34). Satan uses man's wicked, deceitful heart (Jer. 17:9) to rebel against God and godliness.

4. Satan actively energizes unbelievers to oppose Christ and Christians.

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2).

"Jesus said, 'Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (Jn. 6:70).

"And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, "That thou doest, do quickly" (Jn. 13:27).

"...the dragon [Satan] gave him [the Antichrist] his power..." (Rev. 13:2).

The devil gives power, energy, strength, ability, and occasion to accomplish his will to unconverted men as his instruments. They are under his control. He works in and through "children of disobedience," either directly as with Judas Iscariot or indirectly with demonic influence or possession.

5. Satan seeks to keep all men unconscious (blinded) to the truth.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not..." (II Cor. 4:3-4).

All men need ". . . repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (II Tim. 2:25b-26).

"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (I Jn. 5:19 NASV).

The picture is of one lying unconscious in the arms of Satan. The devil keeps men unaware of their need for repentance. He lulls the unbeliever into a false sense of peace. Jesus states this when accused of casting out demons by Beelzebub. He called Satan a strong man who was armed, having his goods in peace, until a stronger man came and took his goods from him (Lk. 11:21-22). Satan is a strong man who drugs the senses of his victims, and assures them there is nothing in God to fear and no judgment to anticipate. He deflects the conviction that the Holy Spirit directs at their hearts, and says, "Peace."