

Satan the Speculator

Harmony M.B.C., May 27, 2012 (Morning)

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Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Jude tells us in v. 9 of that book that Michael the archangel disputed with the devil about the body of Moses, and in that account there is mention of Michael not wanting to bring a railing accusation. Some bible scholars have read that portion of scripture to mean that Michael didn't dare to bring a railing accusation against the devil, but there are others who say the sentence construction suggests that Michael refused to agree with the devil and collaborate with him in bringing a railing accusation against Moses. This latter interpretation agrees with what Jude wrote in the previous verses and agrees with the context and subject he is dealing with. It also makes sense if we take Peter's comments about angels not making railing accusations (**2 Pet. 2:11**); in that commentary, Peter is writing about angels not railing against the children of God, called "dignities."

People in every age have taken Jude's statements as a reason to avoid talking about the devil. That's not why the Holy Spirit gave us that information. Further, to expose the devices of the devil is not railing accusation, if Jude's statements even pointed to Satan at all. Also, the bible is full of such exposures of the devil's craft and intent.

We want to look at what the Lord gave us here in the book of Job and do some exposing, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us in our examination. Paul mentioned in **2Cor. 2:11** that he and his helpers were not ignorant of the devil's devices, but I believe part of what makes us susceptible to the devil's deception and snares is ignorance on our part regarding him. Satan is hard at work nowadays and he can and does focus on believers who are seeking to do the right things in their lives in service to Christ. Truly, he hopes to advance his cause by introducing discord and even chaos into the lives of God's children. So, we need to know how he works, and be aware of that working in order that we may deflect his arrows, and glorify our Lord.

I. Satan's attitude and designs as a speculator (re-read text verse)

- ❖ Satan assumes the very worst of people...even if they are children of God
 - Satan has known from his beginning deception of the human race that the natural human response is to choose wrong over right
 - Since Eden, the agenda of Satan has been the wrecking of spiritual incentive and activity in human kind - His speculation about what Job would do under pressure gives us an inside view of how he thinks about this.
 - The simile the bible has about the devil in **1Peter 5:8** gives us great imagery about him which we can use to show that he has contempt for humans intends damage to them: **1Peter 5:8** "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
 - Note first and foremost that Satan is your adversary
 - As a roaring lion - a roaring lion seeks to paralyze or confuse its prey by roaring when it charges
 - "walking about..." - a hunting lion is investigating his surroundings and looking for a victim
 - a lion walking about has a level of freedom to intrude into all corners of the environment
 - "...seeking whom he may devour." The aim of a hunting lion is to kill prey and eat it
 - Eating prey makes the life force of the prey to be strength for the lion
 - Satan sees himself as strengthened in his war against God by taking down a human being

- A hunting lion never views a potential victim as anything more than prey...to illustrate, a human...God's highest creation on earth...is just so much meat to a hunting lion; regardless of the fact that humans are supposed to be elevated above the animals of the planet
 - ◆ Analogy: Satan only sees people as prey...he doesn't honor the position that God placed man in. This is all part of him thinking the very worst of people.
 - ◆ Satan DOES know enough about our temperament and weaknesses to be able to estimate what it will take to get a carnal response out of us (touch all that he hath and etc.)
 - ◆ Note: while he knows enough to speculate about what it will take to break us, he is apparently not capable of factoring in everything about what moves us; which brings us to the next thought:
 - ◆ Satan doesn't know anything about preserving and persevering grace nor strengthening by the Holy Spirit (he will curse thee to thy face)
 - ◆ He's had more than 6,000 years to learn what it is and how it works, but I don't believe he knows to this day
 - ◆ He probably can't fathom the fixed law of God which says believers are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation" (1 Pet. 1:5)
 - ◆ He probably does not have insights into the great work of the Holy Spirit with our inner man in strengthening us spiritually: (Paul expressed a prayer fro the brethren at Ephesus that reveals this: **Eph. 3:16** "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;")
 - ◆ In reading that part of Eph. (**Ch. 3, vv. 16-19**) we see what Paul has in view for those believers in being strengthened in the inner man - that something (as expressed in v.19, is that they might be filled with "all the fullness of God." This filling overpowers the efforts of Satan. This is something Satan cannot know about. Why? See **1John 5:18** "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."
 - Illustrate - All biology majors in college will sooner or later have to take an anatomy course. One of the main features of anatomy courses is the laboratory part. In lab, most anatomy teachers require that students dissect an animal. Do you know why they must do that? Because, dissecting an animal is the most direct way of examining the internal structure of a flesh and blood creature. There are other ways to examine creatures, but hands on dissection is a sure way to be able to do a thorough examination. If you can't examine something, you can't learn anything about it. Satan can't examine our spiritual makeup because he can't touch our inner man.
 - ◆ Satan's confidence about what we will do is pure speculation born of his limited viewpoint concerning the relationship between the Lord and His people
 - ◆ Satan's speculation about what we will do under stress only comes true if we don't maintain our perspective (see **Ch. 1:20-22** and **Ch. 2:9-10**)
- ❖ Biblical references about the power of Satan:
 - Some level of power to alter physical and emotional well being of people: In **Job 2:7**, it is said that he "smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown."
 - In **Luke 13:16**, a woman is spoken of who has been bound by Satan for eighteen years by disease.
 - In **Acts 10:38**, one of the works of Christ is said to have been the healing of all who were oppressed with the Devil.
 - In **1 Cor. 5:5**, exclusion for church discipline is spoken of as the delivering over of one to Satan

for **the destruction of the flesh.**

➤ Concerning the minions of the devil: Demons are expressly separated from the persons possessed. See **Luke 6:17, 18; Matt. 12:43-45; Mark 1:32, 34; 9:18.**

- Satan is also said, in some sense, to **have or to have had the power of death, Job 2:6; Heb. 2:14**
- Satan has power to **plant his servants...called his children**...among the children of God (**Matt. 13:38-39**)
- He can **take advantage of believers** - **2Cor. 2:11** Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.
- Has **power to teleport** people and to **compress space and time as far as seeing** is concerned - **Luke 4:5** And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. (Remember Satan also took Jesus up to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem).
- Has **power to give men power, rulership, ownership of earthly things**, and apparently, other things. **Luke 4:6** And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.
- Has power to be disguised: **2Cor. 11:14** And no marvel; for Satan himself is **transformed into an angel of light.**
- **Has aspirations of being God:** **2Thess. 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- **2Thess. 2:4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.