

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Bogus Theology 3

Art Nelson

Introduction

Our last two issues have dealt with what I call Bogus Theology. This issue continues with the theme.

Before we begin this study, let's re-iterate our word definitions from last time so that it is clear exactly what is being discussed. These definitions are taken from the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary:

Definition of *Bogus*: not genuine : counterfeit, sham. **Synonyms:** artificial, imitation, dummy, ersatz, factitious, fake, false, faux, imitative, man-made, mimic, mock, pretend, sham, simulated, substitute, synthetic

Definition of *Theology*: (1) the study of religious faith, practice, and experience; especially : the study of God and of God's relation to the world (2) a) : a theological theory or system b): a distinctive body of theological opinion

So, *bogus theology* is a counterfeit, fake, man-made study of religious faith; that is, the study of God and of His relation to the world embodied as religious opinion and theory.

We have been indoctrinated with bogus theology in a number of areas of our understanding about God and His plan and purpose for us.

In our last issue we looked at what the Scriptures actually say about hell, sheol, hades and its purpose in the plans of God. In this issue we will look at the Devil, where he is and what he is doing.

The Shortcomings of the Devil

Before we proceed with this lesson, let's clarify some things about the Devil and dump some of the false ideas that we have taken in through our traditions, cultural heritage, literature, false doctrines and false teachings. These false ideas and erroneous thinking have led to much of our

bogus theology concerning the devil.

First, let's clarify a few things about Satan and his power:

1. He is not all powerful, all knowledgeable, etc. In other words, he is not God. He is a created being [*Ezekiel 28:15*] and, as such, is subject to the limitations of all created beings.
2. He is not in an eternal battle with God, struggling back and forth over the control of the universe. He rose in rebellion against God to replace Him (the epitome of pride and audacious arrogance); however, he was never a threat to God. There was never a great battle (nor ever will be) whose outcome was in question. Jesus said that he “*was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning*” [*Luke 10:18*]. This was a quick end to Lucifer's uprising in heaven. No big battle, just a “snap” of the fingers of God and Satan was out of heaven as fast as lightning. Jesus triumphed over Satan with His death and resurrection. Colossians 2:15 tells us, “*When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*”
3. Satan does not know the fullness of what God has in mind for the future. His knowledge is limited. He only knows what has been revealed by God through Angels or through His prophetic word. The Devil does not participate in the eternal councils of God. He is an outsider to the mysteries of God [*1 Peter 1:12*].
4. Satan has no creative power. I would even say that he has little imagination. He copies what God is doing, perverting it to his own ends. That is why he deals in counterfeits.
5. Satan's major attribute is that he has a persuasive tongue and is able to deceive. His primary ability to do things in the earth is through his influence on the hearts of men through his deceptions. Just as the Lord works through people by His Holy Spirit, the Devil works through people who have given themselves to him and those who walk in the flesh even when they think that they are only serving their own interests.
6. The end result of God's work as it relates to our enemy is that the Devil is thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented forever [*Rev. 20:10*]. This is not in doubt. It will be done when God has completed His purposes. All know this, even the Devil because God has spoken it in His Word.

In our bogus theology we have given too much power to the enemy. In some ways, he has tricked us into believing that his final defeat is questionable. This type of thinking is erroneous and creates in us one of the strongholds or fortresses that the Scriptures mention that need to be torn down in our minds [*2 Cor. 10:3-5*].

The Devil's Place & Function

We need to remember that Satan was not created as Satan or the Devil. He was created by God as an Angel of light with both a place and a function in the plans and economy of God. When he fell through his pride, he became Satan, the deceiver, the one who opposes God.

We have named the created being Lucifer because of the way the Latin Vulgate [*a Latin translation of the Bible*] translates Ezekiel 14:12. This was picked up by the King James translators and the name stuck. [*The Hebrew word actually means “morning star”, “day star”*]

or “light bearer” according to Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Definitions.] However, regardless of what he was called originally, he is now Satan, the Devil and is opposed to all that God plans or purposes.

Before he fell, Satan had a glorious place and function in God's economy. This is detailed in Ezekiel chapter 28. There are two beings addressed in the chapter—the prince or leader of Tyre and the king of Tyre. The prince is obviously a man and the king is obviously not a man.

"Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. (Ezekiel 28:12-15 NASB)

This being was created by God with many attributes:

1. He had the seal of perfection.
2. He was full of wisdom.
3. He was perfect in beauty.
4. He was located in Eden, the garden of God. [*I don't believe that this is the Eden of Genesis, which was Adam's habitat. The Hebrew word of Eden means “pleasure” or “paradise”. This Eden was a mineral garden that was prepared as a covering for Lucifer the day that he was created.*]
5. He was placed by God as a covering.
6. He was on the Holy Mountain of God and he walked among the stones of fire [*In Revelation, these seem to be in the throne room of God.*]
7. He was blameless in his function from the time he was created until he fell.

When Satan sought to ascend to the assembly of God [*Isa. 14:12-14*], things changed in the heart and mind of Lucifer:

"By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you. (Ezekiel 28:16-18 NASB)

This verse describes the results of Lucifer's pride and arrogance.

1. His wisdom was corrupted by his splendor and his heart was lifted up because of his

- beauty.
2. This caused unrighteousness to be found in him.
 3. Violence filled him because of the abundance of his trade. [*What is his trade or merchandise? The root of one of the Hebrew words here means “whisperer”. I believe that his “merchandise” had to do with a slander campaign against God. He went up and down among the angels whispering against God.*]
 4. By his actions, he profaned his sanctuaries.

Events of Satan's Fall

God cast Satan from His mountain. He caused him to vanish from among the stones of fire. It would appear then that Satan was now excluded from the throne room of God. In Luke 10:18 Jesus said, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning." I believe that He was referring to the events described by Ezekiel. The question is, where did he fall to?

We know that he did not fall to earth at this time because of what is said in Revelation.

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Revelation 12:7-9 NASB)

This war and the ousting of Satan and his angels from heaven has not happened yet. How do I know that it is still future? Because of what Paul said in Ephesians.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. (Ephesians 6:12 NASB)

Our struggle is not with people but the forces behind people. These are principalities, powers, world forces, spiritual wickedness. These are located in heavenly places (literally, the heavenlies). These could not be operating in the heavenlies if Satan and his angels were already cast into the earth because the verse above from Revelation says that “*there was no longer a place found for them in heaven*”.

So, then what did Jesus mean when He said that He had seen Satan fall from heaven like lightning? Let's consider what is meant by heaven.

As seen above Paul tells us that the principalities and powers that we wrestle against are in the heavenlies. The word is plural, implying more than one “heaven”. The Old Testament refers to the throne room of God as the “heaven of heavens” [*Neh. 9:6*]. There are also references to “heaven and the highest heavens”. [*Deu. 10:14; 1Ki. 8:27; Psa. 115:16; Psa. 148:4*] Paul said that he knew a man that was caught up to the third heaven [*2 Cor. 12:2*]. We must conclude then that there are at least three heavens with the highest being the “heaven of heavens” or the throne room of God.

Since there is a “third heaven” there must also be a first and second heaven. The first heaven is

probably the physical heaven that we see when we look upward. The third heaven we have already identified as the throne room of God. That leaves us with the “second heaven” or middle heaven as un-identified.

Based on our previous discussion, we can conclude that the heaven from which Satan fell was the “heaven of heavens”, i.e., the throne room of God. This probably occurred when God's judgment fell on Satan's rebellion.

I believe that when Jesus saw him as lightning fall from heaven, He was referring to the ousting of Lucifer from the throne room of God, the “heaven of heavens”. Satan then took up residence in the “middle or second heaven” where he began to establish the headquarters for the Kingdom of Darkness. The fallen angels that occupied the now fallen principalities of the heavenlies began to function in a manner that furthered the purposes and strategies of Satan rather than those of our Lord.

It is from this strategic location in the heavens that Satan plots his schemes against us and against the Lord. This will be his headquarters until he is ousted by Michael and completely removed from the heavens and cast into the earth.

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:

artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com

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