

August 3, 2003

Week Thirty-nine: "Satan"
Day One: Small Group Guide

Read: Ezekiel 28:1-19 (p. 933)

Read: Commentary: (p. 934)

Reflect: When you were a child, did you believe in the presence of Satan in your world? How have your beliefs about Satan changed?

Dig: Where else in scripture do we find a prophecy about an earthly and present figure but also about someone in the spiritual realm?

See Isaiah 7:13-17 (p. 760)

Look up the other First Testament (Old Testament) texts that refer to Satan and state in one sentence what you learn from these texts:

1 Chronicles 21:1 (p. 457)

Job 1:6-12, 2:1-10 (p. 552)

Zechariah 3:1-10 (p. 1055)

Apply: Ask God to make you aware of the forces that rage around you. Ask God for a great love for the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit.

Week Thirty-nine: "Satan"
Day Two: "The Fall of Lucifer"

Read: Isaiah 14:1-23 (p. 768)

Read: Commentary (p. 768)

Reflect: How has evil masqueraded as good in your life? How does darkness pretend it is light?

Dig: Notice that Jesus is also called "the morning star." Look up 2 Peter 1:19 (p. 1459) and Revelation 22:16 (p. 1504). What do these passages tell you about what Satan does and pretends to be?

When does this prophecy come to pass?

See 1 John 3:8 (p. 1468)

Revelation 20:7-10 (p. 1501)

How does John contrast Satan and God? What is his main metaphor (word picture)?

See 1 John 1:5-10 (p. 1466)

Apply: Since darkness is Satan's favorite nesting place and since unconfessed sin is darkness of soul, confess your sins and forgive others so that you will walk in light today.

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Day Three: "The Work of Satan"

Read: Job 1:6-12 (p. 552)

Read: Commentary (p. 553)

Reflect: Do you know when you are being tempted? What is a usual pathway of temptation for you?

Do you know when you are being deceived?

What do you think is Satan's favorite tactic, temptation or deception?

Dig: What more do you learn about Satan's roaming from 1 Peter 5:8 (p. 1455)

Is what Satan accuses Job of in verse 9-10 a common problem for human beings?

See James 4:1-4 (p. 1444)

What do Job 1:12 and Job 2:6-8 tell you about what control God has over Satan's freedom to do harm to us?

Apply: Say the Lord's Prayer (see Matthew 6:9-15, p. 1083) and pause at the verse that speaks of temptation and evil and meditate and pray over these issues in your own life.

Ask God for protection from evil today and for fortification against Satan's attacks.

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Day Four: "The Names and Nature of Satan"

Read: Revelation 9:11 (p. 1491)

Read: Commentary (p. 1491)

Reflect: Do you know what your own name means? Why was it given to you?

Dig: The commentary states that the names given in scripture often denote character and purpose. This is true of Satan's many names. As you look at this group of names for Satan, what common themes do you see?

Satan=adversary

The Accuser

The Enemy

Belial=wickedness

The Great Dragon

The Ancient Serpent

The Evil One

The Father of Lies

The Ruler of the Kingdom of the Air

The Prince of this World

The Tempter

Look up John 8:44 (p. 1211) and answer these questions:

Who is Jesus in conversation with?

What are they disagreeing about?

What is Satan lying to them about?

If you go to the beginning of the Bible (Genesis 3:1 p. 6), what is the first

thing Satan tries to undermine in Eve's heart?

Apply: How does Satan try to undermine your faith and trust in God's word? Ask God to fortify you against this temptation/deception.

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Day Five: "The Judgment and Defeat of Satan"

Read: John 12:31 (p. 1218)

Read: Commentary (p. 1219)

Reflect: Are you afraid of Satan or of death? Should you be?

Dig: What happened at the cross?

See today's verse, John 12:31.

See Colossians 2:14-15 (p. 1376)

How do the death and resurrection of Christ defeat Satan and his fear tactics?

See 1 Corinthians 15:54-56 (p. 1323)

How should Christians enter death's doorway?

Why might God still allow his defeated foe to continue to operate in this world?

See Romans 8:31-36 (p. 1290) and answer this question: how can we be "more than conquerors" when Satan attacks us?

Apply: Ask God to make you more than a conqueror in the temptations of your life and in the way that you suffer common human difficulties.