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Satan's Temptation Strategies

The following narrative is a condensed summary of the chronological order of Satan's ploys to foil God's plan of bringing forth His son, as the saviour of those whom He predestinated to be redeemed. Much of the text in the first few pages is quoted from, or based on Clarence Larkin's publication, "The Book of Revelation."

As soon as Satan had "accomplished" (1) the fall of Adam and Eve (though they were personally responsible for their sin) he found himself under the curse of God, and was told that the "seed" of the Woman should bruise his head. Gen. 3:14-15. This aroused the enmity of Satan, and he determined (2) to prevent the birth of the promised "seed", after birth. So, as soon as Abel was born, from whom the promised "seed" was to come, Satan schemed for his destruction, and finally (3) got his brother Cain to kill him".

Then, the "Sons of God" (misinterpreted as angels, but actually Sethites, the godly line), doubtless at Satan's instigation, (4) married the Daughters of Men" (Cainites. the godless line) and their "sin", and the character of their offspring moved God to destroy them from off the face of the earth. This is what he planned for, and would have been a victory for Satan, and a defeat for God, so God decided to spare the race, and begin over again with a representative man, Noah. Note (my editorial comment): What God did was no afterthought, He plans whatever He does in anticipation of the need, not in reaction to it!

Another incident (5) of one yielding to the devil's lures, was Noah's drunkenness, resulting in the curse of Canaan the son of Ham. Gen. 9:18-27. Then, the people began to multiply, and Satan filled their heart with pride and presumption, and they rose and (6) built the "Tower of Babel", the result: the "Confusion of Tongues", and the unity of the race broken up. Gen. 11:1-19.

Also, we have the case of Abraham and Sarah, and her barrenness, probably (7) an attempt of Satan, to prevent birth of the "seed". Then, God to show Satan

that He could work a miracle to produce the promised "seed", waited until Sarah was "past age", at 90 years old (Gen. 17:17), and then He caused her to conceive, and bear the promised "seed". Gen. 18:9-15; 21"1-3.

Next, we have the story of Abraham and Isaac--where (8) Satan moved God to command the sacrifice of Isaac, his son, and Abraham's willingness to slay his son. God intervened, and provided another sacrifice. Later, (9) Satan caused Isaac's wife (Rebekah) to be barren, but Isaac prayed, and it caused twins to be born.

When the twins grew up, (10) he stirred up enmity between them, trying to repeat the tragedy of Cain and Abel, so that Jacob, through whom Christ was to come, would be slain.

Satan (11) also tried to kill Moses through Pharaoh's order to kill all male Hebrew children at birth, to destroy the male line of descent altogether. Satan failed again. Ex. 2:5-10.

In the life of Job, two notes by Scofield show the factors involved, (a) Satan's theory: Job was good because he was prosperous, and (b) the sieve of Satan: the mystery of God's permissive will.

Itemizing Satan's acts against Job:

1. (12) The Sabeans take away Job's oxen and asses.
2. (13) The Sabeans slew Job's servants.
3. (14) The fire of God came down from heaven, and burned up the sheep, and servants, and consumed them.
4. (15) The Chaldean bands fell upon the camels, and carried them away, and slew the servants with swords. 5.
- (16) Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking in their brother's house, and a great wind smote the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they were dead.

Job worshipped God, and said that the Lord gave, and hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Again in Satan's sieve:

There was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.

The Lord said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? Satan said, from going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

God told Satan of Job's faithfulness in a number of things. And Satan answered the Lord, and said skin for skin, yea all that a man hath will he give for his life.

But, (17) put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thy hand; but save his life.

So, Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord, and (18) smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he (Job) took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

And so it went on, when (19) King Jehoshaphat's son slew all his brethren with the sword, 2 Chron. 21:13, thus reducing the "seed royal" down to one life. Then Jehoram had children, and (20) the Arabians slew all his children, but one, Ahaziah the youngest. 2 Chron. 21:17 (margin), 2 Chron. 22:1.

But Ahaziah had children, who (21) were slain by Athaliah, his mother, doubtless at the instigation of Satan. Unbeknownst to her, God intervened and rescued the infant son. For 6 years, all the hopes of God's people, as to the promised "seed" rested on that infant's life

(22) During the captivity, Satan tried to destroy the whole Hebrew nation at the hands of Haman, but the plan was frustrated. See Esther 3:8:15, 6:1-11. At the last, the promised seed was born.

Then Satan, failing to prevent his birth, (23) determined to destroy Him before He could reach the cross. He prompted Herod, through jealousy and fear to slay

all the male children at Bethlehem under 2 years of age, but Joseph, warned of God in a dream, had fled with the infant Christ to Egypt.

When Christ entered on His ministry, Satan (24) met Him in the wilderness, and suggested that He throw Himself from the pinnacle of the Temple. Satan (25) then tried to get the townspeople to attempt to throw Him over a precipice. Luke 4:29.

(26) Two storms on the Sea of Galilee were but failed attempts of Satan to destroy Christ. Satan renewed the fight through Priests and Pharisees, until he succeeded (27) in getting one of Christ's own disciples, Judas, to sell his master.

Then, (28) through physical exhaustion at Gethsemane he sought to kill Christ. When he at last succeeded (29) in having Christ crucified, through Pilate--after the crucifixion, Satan (30) had the tomb sealed, but when Christ arose from the dead, Satan's rage knew no bounds.

The history of the Christian Church is but one long story of the "Irrepressible conflict" between Satan and God's people. For example, Paul writing to the Thessalonians said, "Wherefore, we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once again, but (31) Satan hindered us." 1 Thess. 2:18.

Now, as the time draws near for Christ to receive "The Kingdom", it means that He will come back to the earth, and Satan's power and dominion over the earth shall cease, and he will be bound for 1,000 years. Then, filled with wrath, (32) he will oppose Christ's return with his armies, and there will be "War in Heaven".

As we, of course know, Christ was born, and grew to be engaged in the ministry of the gospel, of which He is the author, and established His Church, the body of Christ.

Satan's wiles, and nefarious means were then dedicated to the new mission of (1) tempting new believers into believing a false interpretation of the gospel, which he has succeeded in doing in the lives of the vast majority of Christians, now and increasingly for centuries, (2) putting temptation in the paths of believers continually throughout their lives, to come between them and the Lord, one way

or another--so that he can do what he did with Job. That is, telling God whenever he has caused a Christian to act unfaithfully.

Who, and how often, or for how long will a Christian be subject to temptation that could cause him to fail, and dishonor God? It depends upon the individual Christian. General church history shows a dismal failure, ever since the early church years. As for who, of course, everyone is a target of the devil, but a young Christian is especially vulnerable!

What has been the spiritual state of the church, for centuries? I would hasten to say that it has been very poor! Why? If you were to ask almost any church member today, active or not, most of them would say their church is faithfully worshipping God, preaching the "gospel", teaching the Word, praying, witnessing, and maintaining a good testimony.

But, I know, along with others who are qualified to legitimately criticize the condition of the contemporary church, that the quality of today's church in general is just what Rev. 2, and 3 describes it to be.

But because the church is both deceived, and deluded into thinking that their majority consensus proves that their false gospel beliefs are right--they are unaware of the unspiritual, hence, unfaithful condition of their church.

What is the cause of nearly the entire universal church being indoctrinated with a perverted concept of the gospel? The scriptural wording of the doctrine of salvation is the same for everyone, and usually quoted intact. But, whenever man uses his own words to preach, or testify of that truth, he must keep the meaning that God intended for His word!

The "adding to", or "taking away from" the word of God, is very seriously warned against in Rev. 22:20-21, and includes any alteration, unintentional or purposeful!

Getting back to the root cause of the church's spiritual malaise of unfaithfulness, there are several factors involved. Because the church is incorrigibly immersed in a liberalized, corrupted gospel, which is what every

convert hears.

And, since that is what the pastor, i.e., told him, and what most everyone else believes, he carelessly accepts it. What might have prevented him from falling into what amounts to the devil's snare?

A pastor who is sound in doctrine would preach the real gospel, and would also tell the new believer that he is personally responsible to always prove to himself what he is taught, by doing his own scriptural study, to either confirm it if it is the truth, or disprove it if it isn't.

And, another thing to be learned early on, to ensure the accomplishment of discerning the true interpretation of doctrine, especially the foundational truth of the gospel, is to "walk in the Spirit." Even as the word "walk" denotes action, it does not happen automatically, just because we have a new spiritual nature.

It requires a conscious, continual decision, as the scripture tells us, to "put off the old man, with his deeds" That is, the unspiritual self, which is still with us, and will naturally think and act, if we don't prevent it by "putting on the new man, by the renewing of your mind."

If this vital instruction from God isn't familiar to you, it is the reason why the great majority of Christians have fallen into Satan's snare, by letting themselves become indoctrinated with the false "form of the gospel which was delivered to you." This is in contrast to the true "form of the gospel", which Paul delivered to the Corinthian Church--because he got it from God, the author of it!

Overwhelmingly, today's Christians did not get their "gospel" from God, but from false gospel preachers, who got their corrupt doctrine from Satan! Which fact, they don't even realize, because they foolishly "gave place to the devil", which God has warned and ordered us not to do. Yet, they have proven their irresponsibility to God, by not even being objectively willing to test their beliefs by study and debate!

In other words, proving rather that they have not, and do not "walk in the Spirit", but by the spiritually useless intellect of the same natural mind that they

lived by before they became Christians.

Falsely comforted by fellow believers, ignorant of the salvation truth, by which God made them Christians, today's church is described in Rev. 2 and 3, as "lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked." And, with their lack of knowledge of the true gospel, they are so woefully deceived, and deluded that they won't even listen to the truth from the opposite side, because Satan has convinced them that it is "heretical", and not to be heeded.

Well, of course, that is what they would think, having bought the lies of the devil, which got them enslaved. Not realizing that the truth from which they defected, is the only means by which they can escape-- they stay ignorantly locked in doctrinal bondage, under the control of Satan!

If you are understandably offended, and angered by that statement, either prove it to be wrong, or you are without excuse, for not scripturally endeavouring to verify what you believe! I know how serious it is for me to make such strong accusations against fellow Christians, which I deeply regret doing, and would not do if I hadn't diligently, and thoroughly proven what I know to be the literal gospel doctrine, instituted by God!

Probably the most disappointing thing about the Calvinist/Arminian gospel controversy, is that with all the false religions in the world to contend with, the conflict caused by them is understandable and expected, but, for the true church to be seriously at odds about its foundational gospel doctrine is difficult to understand, especially that the controversy has not been resolved for the Arminian faction, hence, the church for centuries.

The only logical, and scripturally attested answer to the manmade mystery or enigma, is that at least one party is not thinking and acting spiritually! Whoever is wrong did not learn his false doctrine from God, i.e., the Spirit, because the Lord cannot be the "author of confusion", including anything causing, or allowing for variations of interpretation!

The universal, free will false gospel concept, which nearly every Christian

believes, violates God's Intended meaning of virtually every gospel doctrinal component, and many other principles and precepts that a Christian is required to live by, proving again, that such believers do not live under control or influence of the Spirit of God!

It is, in a word, the "old man" trying to do, in his natural capacity, what the "new man" is required to do in his new spiritual capacity! And, there is no neutral, middle, or variable ground involved, or allowable.

Practically all the biblical admonitions to strive for unity, in the doctrine and conduct of Christians' lives, for personal and collective church testimony, are either ignored, or otherwise failed to be obeyed, due to the long unsettled gospel conflict.

Putting choice of belief, especially unproven and wrong, and unfaithful to God, above the responsibility of submission and obedience to Him, and His word, are the height of dishonor and offense to Him. Not outright contempt? What about utter disrespect?

Does the question of whether the disloyalty to God is intentional, matter? Many, probably most, would say that that would extenuate, or temper the effect. But, if ignorance of the law is no excuse for failing to obey it, how is ignorance of God's word, in such a major doctrine as the gospel, an acceptable excuse?

Neither is the church's classic gospel misinterpretation confined to the gospel! As I have commented on elsewhere, the basic fault behind believing false gospel theology is not "walking in the Spirit". That means that the Arminian concept of the gospel, which is the church's conventional doctrine of salvation, is a product of their natural, unspiritual mind!

Which, to be concise and explicit, means that they cannot discern the truth of the gospel, unless and until they ever get a spiritual "ear to hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

How do we know what the Spirit is saying to the churches? He is saying what the scriptures have always said, the truths of God, but they are not listening or

trying to learn the truth; at least of gospel doctrine. They are too busy being obsessed and preoccupied with Satan's and man's hijacking of the real gospel, and perpetuating the Arminian myth!

Someone asked me how I can say the same thing all the time. I say as long as they keep repetitiously spreading a corrupted gospel, I will keep speaking the truth against it. It is only common sense to believe that is what God wants and requires those who know the truth to do!

6/26/1

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This condensed summary of Satan's attempts to foil God's plan to preserve the royal seed which would eventually bring forth Jesus as redeemer of