

157 THE ROARING LION, 1 PETER 5:8 *enemy*

"BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT; BECAUSE YOUR ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL, AS A ROARING LION, WALKETH ABOUT SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR."

INTRODUCTION: DR. LIVINGSTONE TELLS US OF AN AFRICAN NATIVE WHO WAS STRUCK DOWN AND TORN BY A LION, THAT PERIODICALLY THE DREADFUL PAINS RETURNED TO THE OLD WOUND, AS IF AGAIN THE MONSTER GNAWED AT THE BONE.

1. THIS ROARING LION, THE DEVIL, IS A VERY REAL ENEMY.

1. SCIENCE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO AWAY WITH HIM, ALTHOUGH IT HAS DONE AWAY WITH MANY SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT HIM.

2. HIS EXISTENCE

A. BIBLE WITNESS AS TO THIS.

MATT. 13:19, 39, "THEN COMETH THE WICKED ONE . . . THE ENEMY THAT SOWED THEM IS THE DEVIL."

JN. 13:2, "THE DEVIL HAVING NOW PUT IT INTO THE HEART OF JUDAS ISCARIOT, SIMON'S SON, TO BETRAY HIM."

B. HIS PERSONALITY.

BIBLE WITNESS TO THIS.

JN. 8:44, "YE ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND THE LUSTS OF YOUR FATHER YE WILL DO. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND ABODE NOT IN THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHEN HE SPEAKETH A LIE, HE SPEAKETH OF HIS OWN; FOR HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT."

JN. 3:8, "HE THAT COMMITTETH SIN IS OF THE DEVIL; FOR THE DEVIL SINNETH FROM THE BEGINNING."

HE IS SET FORTH AS A MURDERER, A LIAR, A SINNER — ALL ELEMENTS OF PERSONALITY.

CHRIST UNDOUBTEDLY BELIEVED IN THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF THE DEVIL.

AS TO "PROOF", WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY PROOF?

THE PHILOSOPHER MEANS MATHEMATICAL DEMONSTRATION; THERE ARE VERY FEW THINGS WHICH CAN BE "PROVEN" SO.

CAN YOU PROVE THIS WAY THAT YOUR MOTHER LOVES YOU? BUT BY "PROOF" THE COMMON MAN MEANS "PRACTICAL CERTAINTY."

3. HIS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

A. HIS PAST.

- (1). ISAIAH 14:12-15, AND EZEKIEL 38:12-19
- (2). HE, LUCIFER, HAD A THRONE ON THE PRIMEVAL EARTH.
- (3). HE ASPIRED TO THE POSITION OF GOD HIMSELF, SAYING, "I WILL RIVAL THE MOST HIGH."
- (4). HE, WITH HIS FOLLOWERS, WERE CAST OUT, JUDE 1:6.
- (5). GOD MADE THE PRIMEVAL EARTH A CHAOS. GEN. 1:2. "THE EARTH BECAME WITHOUT FORM AND VOID."

B. PRESENT.

- (1). HE SAW GOD RECONSTRUCTING THE EARTH IN GEN. 1 & 2.
- (2). HE INVADED THIS CREATION WITH THE PURPOSE OF SETTING THE NEWLY CREATED MAN AGAINST GOD.
- (3). THREE FIELDS OF ACTIVITY:

(A). IN HEAVEN, WHERE HE ACCUSES THE CHILDREN OF GOD, (REV. 12:10, AND JOB.)

(B). IN THE AIR, WHERE HIS UNSEEN BUT ORGANIZED POWERS CONTROL THE POLITICAL WORLD,

ISA. 24:21; DNM. 10:12-14, AND EPH. 6:12.

(C). ON EARTH, WHERE HE FIGHTS THE CHILDREN OF GOD, 2:2 AND LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF UNBELIEVERS, JN8:44, EPH

C. HIS FUTURE, TORMENT IN THE LAKE OF FIRE.

III. A SUBTLE ENEMY. "He abroth the measure of every man's feet, 1. CUNNING MALIGNITY, GEN. 3:1, and then he fetch him instantantly." 2 COR. 11:3

2 COR. 2:2, WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES.

2. DECEITFUL, 2 COR. 11:14 "ANGEL OF LIGHT"

3. THE TEMPTER, MT. 4:3

A. TEMPTING MEN IN THEIR WEAK MOMENTS, MT. 4:1-11, LK. 22:40-46

B. AFTER GREAT SUCCESSES, JN. 6:15

C. BY SUGGESTING THE USE OF RIGHT THINGS IN A WRONG WAY, MT. 4:1-11

D. BY DELUDING HIS FOLLOWERS BY SIGNS AND WONDERS, 2 THES. 2:9, 10.

E. BY EVEN TURNING OUR VIRTUES INTO VICES

F. See The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis

IV. HE IS, HOWEVER, A DEFEATED ENEMY. THIS YOU CAN SEE

1. A CONQUERED FOE. JN. 12:31; 16:9,10; 1 JN. 3:8; COL. 2:15; 2 COR. 4:4
Jude 1:9; Rev. 2:10; 12:9,12
2. UNDER A PERPETUAL CURSE, GEN. 3:14, AND ISA. 65:25
3. HE IS TO BE RESISTED, 1 PET. 5:8,9, AND JAMES, 4:7.
A. BY SUBMITTING TO GOD, ROM. 6:17-23 AND " "
B. BY PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, EPH. 6:10-20
4. HE IS FINALLY TO BE CAST ALIVE INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE,
THERE TO BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND EVER.
MT. 25:41 ^{1/31}
REV. 20:10

The Devil, A Roaring Lion

1. Names for this Devil in the N.T.

Mentioned by name (usually Satan) 33 times

Mentioned as "devil" 32 times

He is also called "the evil one," "the tempter," "the accuser," "the enemy," "the prince of demons," "the ruler of this world," "the prince of the power of the air," "Beliar," and "Beelzebub."

2. His role in the N.T.

He is clearly a distinct personality, not merely an evil principle.

The N.T. writers understood Satan to enter into men and to be the responsible author (not merely the personification) of their evil deeds and passions.

He tempts Judas and Simon Peter; he prompts Ananias to withhold his contribution; he shuts men's hearts and ears to the message of God; he maliciously obstructs Christian endeavor, and prevented Paul from visiting Thessalonia (I Thes. 2:18).

He is essentially a power of darkness and an enemy of light and of God, though he sometimes cunningly disguises himself as an "angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14).

He is a father of lies, a murderer from the beginning (Jn. 8:44), and it is he that brought death into the world (Heb. 2:14).

In the Book of Rev. he is said to be vanquished by Michael (or be an "angel who comes down from heaven") and thrust into the bottomless pit, along with his confederates.

At the end of 1,000 years, however, he will break loose, but only to be defeated once again, this time forever (12:9; 20:2-3, 10).