

9.9.19 - God vs Satan

We often view this world as a battleground in the contest between God and Satan. We get a glimpse of that in **Job 1:6-12** **Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?**

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Also, Job 2:1-6 **Again 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. And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But 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 thine hand; but save his life.

I am going to assume that these meetings were going on from the day Satan was cast out of heaven until the present. I would like to *imagine* some of these meetings. Where God does not seem to win, it does not come as a surprise to God. He knows the outcome before the contest begins. God has a purpose for the failure, for example; The fall of man in the garden gave us a demonstration of how much God loves us. He did not kill Adam and Eve and start over. Their life after the fall was not as bad as they deserved. The greatest demonstration was sending His Son to redeem us.

This one was before the fall of man. I may be adding too much carnal thought to God's statements here, if so forgive me. The same applies to all the statements of God in this article.

"Have you noticed my finest creation, made in my image, who show my handiwork without shame? They do not even seem to notice the forbidden fruit."

"Sure, they have plenty of other fruit to eat and no one to suggest that you are withholding the knowledge of good and evil from them. If given a chance I will be able to have them eat the forbidden fruit and cover your image."

"You are allowed in the garden to tempt them but use no force or threatening displays."

We have the temptation in Gen 3:1-7. Notice Eve's version of what God said about the forbidden fruit **Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.** is more restricting than God's version in **Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.** First touch of legalism before Satan came on the stage. We do not have the conversation of Satan and Adam and Eve about covering up the

image of God. What did he use for motivation to cover their bodies without admitting he deceived them on his first suggestion? Before we leave this section, we will repeat that **Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.** could not mean a leather coat as we use the word today. With tropical weather, Adam would get enough sweating from his work even without clothing, so we do not know for sure what God made. God did not think we needed to know or it would be included. We do not even know that it covered more than the aprons.

Many meetings later with God seeming to lose all of them we have the following meeting.

“Have you considered my servant Noah? He and his three sons still serve Me even when all the people around him do not?”

“Give me enough time and I will also win him over to my side. No one else was able to keep true to Your way. There are none that seek Your way, they are happy with mine.”

“You have a hundred years. Do not take his wealth or destroy the project I will give him or stop its building or touch him or his family.”

We know that Satan did not win this round. The time line in the Bible is not easy to follow, but Satan could easily have gotten his 100 years. It can be shown that it did not take 100 years to build the ark. If you ever feel like you are the last one that is still true to God, it certainly is not this bad and you will not need to put up with it for hundreds of years.

As Satan tries to regain control after the flood, we have the meeting about Job and many meetings latter we have this one involving the main character for the last 13 chapters of Genesis.

“Have you considered Joseph my servant even after being removed from his favored position in Jacob’s family and sold into slavery?”

“What kind of slavery is that! He is nearly equal to Potiphar! If he falls from this position, he will forsake You and choose to worship the Egyptian gods.”

“You may put him into disfavor with Potiphar but, spare his life.”.

We know Satan did not win this one either but, consider the convictions of Joseph to believe his dreams would still work out even as a slave and a criminal. I hope my faith is not tested that hard. I am not sure I would get a good grade on the test. For the men who think they would “do stupid things” around a naked woman, notice that even if the woman is after you, it is possible to avoid “stupid things”. If this does not make sense to you, read **Gen 39**.

This is after God's appearance at Mount Sinai while Moses is in the camp before he went up to have God write the ten commandments in stone.

"Have you noticed how frightened the Hebrew children are of my power after the Mount Sinai event? Surely they will not go back to any of the Egyptian gods whose reputation I destroyed by the plagues."

"Allow me to tempt them for a while without Moses and I will have them build and worship an Egyptian God."

"You have 40 days, but I will still remind them every morning with manna that I am still with them."

We have the story of the golden calf that "walked" out of the fire when Aaron put the gold in the fire **Exo 32:24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf**. Remember, it takes a real hot fire to melt gold and I'd bet that gold works a lot like solder which if it falls on the table only makes a splat if there is no mold to pour it into. Also notice that the Hebrews were not all making bricks or none of them would have known how to make a mold and melt the gold for a casting.

The Hebrews failed to show their appreciation to God for freedom from slavery and for His provision and protection. How often do we fail like that? How can God still love us enough to look out for our good even when we fail like this?

This meeting would be near the end of Old Testament times, since the Romans had under garments so, the contest was already underway.

"Have you noticed how most of the people I created in my image still show that image on a regular basis?"

"Where is the choice! They are not honoring You, they are saving their expensive clothing to avoid replacing it. Make clothing cheap and they will not even want their spouse to see your image."

"I will allow them to find ways to make cheaper clothing, but not real suddenly."

We are still in this contest and it may seem that Satan is winning, but we may be judging the outcome before the final play. Who would have bet on David winning against Goliath, or Moses getting a million people out of Egypt without a battle of armies, or Hezekiah not being defeated by the Assyrians. **2Ki 19:35,36 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.,** or Jehoshaphat winning the battle with the singers in the front of the army **2Ch 20:22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.?**

It is rather sad how well Satan has deceived us in this area. We are now calling God's position sin (naked and not ashamed) and Satan's position righteous (cover the image and likeness of God in shame), but we really shouldn't be surprised...God warned us that that good would be called evil and evil would be called good. Can we get any farther from the truth than that! **Isaiah 5:20** ²⁰ **Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!** The only use we make of God's image seems to be for trade. An attractive woman to get the attention of potential customers. A view of what is under that clothing for a small fee. Over adornment of the body to get a wealthy husband.

Note that Satan does not have unlimited powers. The story of Job shows how fast he goes to the limit of his power to afflict humans. Without God's control Satan would destroy all the humans on this planet. We should make an effort to stay under God's umbrella.

The key is to trust God no matter what the score is and no matter how bleak the outcome may appear. We should be following God and His preferred method no matter what anyone else is doing or what anyone else thinks, because ultimately in the battle of God vs Satan...I've read the back of the book and we win!