

HIS SATANIC MAJESTY

1 Peter 5:8

Int: There are no less than 117 references to the Devil scattered in 23 books of the Bible. The best organizing outline for a sermon came from an old black preacher. It has three points.

WHO THE DEVIL HE IS

The Devil is a PERSON, just as real as God. The Bible credits him with personal words and deeds. Jesus dealt with Satan as a person (Mt 4:1-11). The apostles warned believers about him (James 4:7).

His POSITION is exalted. He was the chief angel who rebelled against God and became the prince of darkness (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6; 2 Cor 11:13; Jude 9). He is an awesome and terrible being.

He is second in POWER only to God. Christians must respect him like high voltage electricity! But he has met his match in Jesus!

WHAT THE DEVIL HE DOIN'

Satan is not in hell. He walks the earth (Job 1:7) looking for victims (1 Pet 5:8), doing all he can to oppose God's purposes.

He *keeps lost people lost* (2 Cor 4:3-4). Nothing else explains why people who know they are not ready to meet God, plan to get ready and know they could die any moment keep putting off getting saved.

He *tries to neutralize Christians*. Given half a chance he will mess up a person's whole life and see to it that the man counts for C nothing in the kingdom of God.

He *hinders God's work*. Paul often wanted to visit the Thessalonians but said "Satan stopped" him (1 Thess 2:18). The word "stopped" meant to cut a trench or dig a ditch to hinder an advancing army. Whatever and whoever hinders God's work is of the Devil. He uses things and even Christians as his instruments.

WHERE THE DEVIL HE GOIN'

In the old Norse myths the world ends in "the twilight of the gods." On doomsday the Fenriswolf breaks his chains and comes raging to earth, the giant Sutr leads the fire giants against Asgard, home of the gods, and the evil frost giants storm over the rainbow bridge from the edges of the world. The gods and heroes go down in defeat and chaos reigns forever. The Vikings said evil wins in the end!

Zoroastrian religion pictures the good god Ormazd and the evil god Ahriman locked in an eternal stalemate. Neither good nor evil wins. These Iranians said it is a tie game forever and ever.

But the Bible says Satan is doomed to final defeat and eternal damnation in the lake of fire and brimstone. God has fixed his execution date (Rev 20:1-3, 7-10). That is glad news but also sad news. Those who side with him must share his doom (Rev 20:15).

Con: Two lords bid for loyalty in this world. The Dark Lord and the Lord from heaven. Every man must choose between them.