

THE SOUND OF A ROARING LION

The Bible tells us, in 1 Peter 5:8, to “be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith.” Satan is REAL! There are hundreds of references of satan and his evil spirits. Jesus called him the prince of this world, a murderer, a liar, and the father of lies.



Elsewhere in the New Testament, Satan is described as the god of this age. He who holds the power of death and a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. In the book of Revelation, he is shown to be the accuser of Christians and the deceiver of nations. So, the scriptures indicate vividly that satan is wicked, real, and powerful.

Yet, perhaps, his greatest deception is to make people believe he doesn't exist. Someone who does not think that he is real would not try to resist him, but if anyone chooses to follow God, he will know that satan is real. The devil has a reason for existing. His purpose is to vex our souls to damnation; to keep us from God's presence so that we do not experience God's eternal life. This is directly opposed to Christ's purpose in coming to earth for mankind. Jesus spoke of this difference in John 10:10 when He said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Satan does not have to kill us to get us to not follow God. He needs only to sidetrack us in this life to make us his captives.

In John 8:31-47, Jesus spoke to a group of Jews who had believed in Him, but only superficially. He said they were slaves to sin and were being manipulated by their father the devil and were, therefore, unable to understand God's truth despite their religious practices. The Jews in these scriptures were being deceived by the devil.

The power of the occult is another one of satan's manifestations. Apparently, in the Old Testament, we find a clear warning about occult practices. Israel was told, in Deuteronomy 18:10-12, “There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter

to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.” The power of the occult is real and God wants us to stay far from it. Some people ignore God’s warning and enter into this world and may even witness all kinds of strange occurrences, but these are only the operation of the occult within certain temporary boundaries. God alone possesses eternal power!

There are two spiritual powers; two kingdoms in our world today. There are only two. One power is God and His Kingdom and the other is satan and his kingdom. One is a kingdom of light and the other the kingdom of darkness. Without Jesus Christ, all things are under the authority of satan. The various non-Christian forces, powers, and influences in our world may seem totally harmless, but they are directed by satan. **Human reasoning, apart from God’s revelation, cannot be trusted** in these important matters. It is human reasoning that told us that the earth was flat, that slavery was justified, and that Jews were dangerous and should be killed. Human reasoning, down through history, has made many, many mistakes, but only the Word of God is truly authoritative and trustworthy.



The Bible tells us that satan is real and powerful, it also tells us that God is the creator of all things and He super-reigns. He is all-powerful. We need to remember this as we fight against the forces of darkness: God ALWAYS causes us to triumph in Christ. This week, we ask that you abstain from all meat except all poultry (chicken and turkey) from our diet. Prayer is essential during the consecration. I believe we are making advances against the kingdom of darkness. We can only win against this enemy if we stand together. Satan has made it his business to deceive and we need to **PRAY AGAINST these things:**

- A. He makes us think that money is more important than living sincerely and righteously before God.
- B. He defames God’s character by accusing Him of impure motives.
- C. He opposes the necessity of Christ’s death for our salvation.
- D. He tries to cripple spiritual leaders. Pray for your leader.
- E. He prevents believers from meeting together in fellowship.
- F. He prevents non-Christians from understanding and believing the Gospel.
- G. He sends his evil supporters to infiltrate the fellowship of true believers.

Meet with us in Prayer on Monday (7PM) and Friday (7:30PM).

Pastor Earl & Denise Goings