

Last week we looked at Satan's devices and how they are achieved in this dispensation, and to a large degree, other dispensations also. His devices are worked out by the nature of mankind. When Adam and Eve fell through Satan's subtle urging, Satan became responsible for the course of this world. Anything that happens because of the course of this world is Satan's responsibility.

This is only false if Satan needs special permission to carry out his plans. When God gave the devil permission to take away Job's possessions and livelihood, God took responsibility for it, even though Satan is the one who carried it out.

When God permitted Satan to provoke David to number Israel, God took responsibility for that also. God also took responsibility for Israel's blindness.

Acts 13:6-11 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name *was* Bar-jesus: **7** Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. **8** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. **9** Then Saul, (who also *is called* Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, **10** And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? **11** And now, behold, **the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.** And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Rom 11:7-8 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and **the rest were blinded 8** (According as it is written, **God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see,** and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

But it is plain from many passages who blinded Israel after they came back from the Babylonian captivity:

Matt 15:12-14 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? **13** But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. **14** Let them alone: **they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind,** both shall fall into the ditch.

It was the religious leadership that blinded Israel, through the course of this world.

God takes responsibility when He allows something outside of a dispensational truth. There was a hedge around Israel, so when God allowed that hedge to be trampled over, He took the responsibility.

In this same way, Satan is assigned responsibility for the consequences of his actions. We illustrated that by comparing some verses.

Now continuing on with that understanding, I think it would be pointless to continue listing Satan's devices. So I'm going to do it anyway.

1. Corrupting the Word of God.
2. Handling the Word of God deceitfully.
3. Failing to rightly divide God's Word / Giving others Pauline authority in this dispensation
4. Separating grace and truth.
5. Comparing ourselves among ourselves.
6. Complicating the simplicity of salvation
7. Using evil men as false ministers of righteousness
8. Expecting God to honor promises not made to us in this dispensation (Healing and other physical blessings)

And that is just a partial list that can be found in II Corinthians alone. Suffice it to say, Satan's devices are achieved in this dispensation by:

1. The Lust of the Flesh
2. The Lust of the Eyes
3. The Pride of Life

But what about devils? What about those dastardly demons that the heroic TV and movie heroes are constantly battling and defeating? What are they doing today?

First, when we look at the history of devils, it would seem that devils had a part in forming false religions. Idolatry was rampant throughout most of the Old Testament scriptures. But those idols, although they were just fashioned out of inanimate objects, represented something else.

Lev 17:6-7 And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the LORD *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the LORD. **7** And **they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils**, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.

This is spelled out more plainly in the first commandment:

Deu 5:6-10 ¶ I *am* the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. **7** Thou shalt have none other **gods** before me. **8** Thou shalt not make thee *any* graven image, or **any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth**: **9** Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me, **10** And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

So the devils that were being worshipped around the world were made in the likeness of other gods. Those other gods were devils.

Deu 32:16-17 They provoked him to jealousy with **strange gods**, with abominations provoked they him to anger. **17 They sacrificed unto devils**, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new *gods that* came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

When the Israelite kingdom split, and the northern tribes went with Jeroboam while the southern tribes went with Rehoboam, Jeroboam did an abominable thing. He was afraid that those under his control would continue going back to Jerusalem three times a year as required. This would turn their hearts back to the Davidic line and they would turn on him. So he made two calves of gold and place one in Bethel and the other in Dan.

This was more than mere idolatry, as is related in:

2Ch 11:14-15 For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD: **15** And he ordained him priests for the high places, **and for the devils**, and for the calves which he had made.

They began to worship devils in the northern tribes.

One of the most abominable devils was Molech. He was called the abomination of the children of Ammon. He was the god to which children were burned in sacrifice. This was done in the valley of the son of Hinnom. When Josiah had a great revival in Judah, he stopped this practice.

2Ki 23:10 And he defiled Topheth, which is in the **valley of the children of Hinnom**, that no man might make **his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech**.

The interesting thing about this location is found in its' history, The valley of the children of Hinnom was part of a bigger valley. When Joshua was dividing up the land, this description is given of where the valley of the son of Hinnom was located.

Josh 18:16 And the border came down to the end of the mountain that *lieth* before the **valley of the son of Hinnom, and which is in the valley of the giants on the north, and descended to the valley of Hinnom**, to the side of Jebusi on the south, and descended to En-rogel,

The valley of the son of Hinnom was located at the bottom of the valley of the giants. We all know the significance of giants in the scripture: they were the offspring of fallen angels. The history here is very plain: the end of the valley of giants became the valley of the son of Hinnom where Israel sacrificed their children to the god, Molech.

Throughout the Old Testament these gods and goddesses are named and identified as both idols and as beings other than idols.

One interesting side-note concerning devils in the Old Testament scriptures: the word 'devils' appears four times in the OT. Twice it is the Hebrew word that is equivalent to the Greek word for devils. The other two times it is the Hebrew word 'saweer' or 'saiyr.' This

word is transliterated twice as ‘satyr.’ Twice it is translated ‘hairy.’ Forty-eight times it is translated goat or kid, meaning baby-goat.

Today, the church of Satan is represented by a deity named Baphomet. When one thinks of devils as goats, you can see that they aren’t worshipping Satan at all, but just another devil.

The only other direct reference to devils in the OT is found in:

Ps 106:34-38 ¶ They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: **35** But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. **36** And they served **their idols**: which were a snare unto them. **37** Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters **unto devils**, **38** And shed innocent blood, *even* the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto **the idols** of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.

In this verse, again, we see that idols and devils are synonymous to each other. That is because the idol always the likeness or representation of something in heaven, the earth, or the waters under the earth.

So the ancient religions were borne out of the worshipping of gods – small g – or devils. It was what Abraham was removed from in Ur of the Chaldees.

Josh 24:1-3 ¶ And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God. **2** And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: **and they served other gods.** **3** And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

But there was more to it than just worshipping false gods. There were also those spirits that may have been more freelance. It is possible that they weren’t working under direct Satanic authority, but they were still an abomination to the Lord.

They worked for the enrichment of certain people and may have been more like the priests for the fallen spiritual realm. They worked for kings and for those with power. They also worked for individuals and raised the status of those individuals. We encounter these beings before Israel was a nation. They were in Egypt, advising Pharaoh:

Gen 41:8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for **all the magicians of Egypt**, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but *there was* none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

They are encountered again as Moses challenges Pharaoh and his gods:

Exo 7:10-12 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. **11** Then Pharaoh also called **the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt**, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. **12**

For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

They must not have liked being called sorcerers.

These spirits empower and enrich those who deal with them.

Acts 8:9-11 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city **used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:** **10** *To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.* **11** And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

So these types of spirits, who are never called devils that I could find, may be seen as independent contractors. We'll see that again shortly.

When Moses is receiving the law from God, we learn of many more manifestations of these spiritual beings.

Deu 18:9-12 ¶ When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. **10** 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**, **11** Or **a charmer**, or **a consulter with familiar spirits**, or **a wizard**, or **a necromancer**. **12** For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

But wait, there's more:

Deu 13:1-3 ¶ If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, **2** And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, **Let us go after other gods**, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; **3** Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

There were also prophets of other gods. One could try to lump them in with consulting familiar spirits, but consulting familiar spirits can involve much different things than telling the future. Case in point was the woman who Saul consulted to bring up the dead. She was shocked and frightened when she actually called up Samuel. Also the spirit of divination can involve revealing the future, as can some of the others, but they aren't tied to worshipping other gods.

These spirits also sometimes do the bidding of God Himself. It may be that they will be judged by their works because Christ didn't die for fallen angels, so they try to please God when they can so that their eternal torment will be lessened.

When God had determined that Ahab should fall in battle, He asked counsel of the host in heaven of how to persuade Ahab to go to battle. Ahab had many prophets prophesy to Jehoshaphat and himself that they would be gloriously victorious. But Jehoshaphat didn't

trust these prophets because he knew that they also prophesied for Baal. Finally Ahab called for the one true prophet of the Lord, Micaiah, to give his prophesy. Micaiah prophesied that Israel would be scattered as sheep without a shepherd.

When the other prophets confronted him about this prophecy, he gives this account:

1Ki 22:19-23 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. **20** And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. **21** And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. **22** And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and **I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.** **23** Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

These spirits are not tied to doing Satan's bidding. They can do the bidding of individuals, kings, and even God.

Then moving on to the earthly ministry of Christ, it seemed that there was a vast sea change in the work that devils were doing.

First, it must be noted that all of the devil-possession that was going on in the land of Israel was by the command of Satan.

Luke 11:14-22 ¶ And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. **15** But some of them said, **He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.** **16** And others, tempting *him*, sought of him a sign from heaven. **17** But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house *divided* against a house falleth. **18** **If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub.** **19** And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? therefore shall they be your judges. **20** But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. **21** **When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: 22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him,** he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

In this passage we read that Beelzebub, or Satan, has armed his kingdom at the point of attack. When God was manifest in the flesh, Satan moved his army to the place that Christ was. The purpose of this was a defensive move. As the god of this world, he was defending what he believed to be an offensive by God to take back the earth.

If God was going to take back the earth, Satan reasoned that he would have to convince the inhabitants of earth to come to His side. If Satan could inhibit those at the point of attack from being able to see, hear, talk, or reason, he could secure a victory.

Christ then makes a prophecy concerning the wickedness of Israel at that time.

Matt 12:38-45 ¶ Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. **39** But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: **40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **41** The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. **42** The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. **43** When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. **44** Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. **45** Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The man he is speaking of here is national Israel. He was going through the land casting the devils out of the land and sweeping it clean. When they would be shown the sign of Jonah – his resurrection from the dead – they would have the opportunity to accept him and fill their hearts with his grace. Instead they rejected him and final end of the unbelieving nation would come about. The condition they would eventually find themselves in would be to be inhabited by a beast with ten heads and seven horns. This wouldn't be revealed fully until John wrote the book of the revelation of Jesus Christ, but those seven heads are much worse for the nation than the mere devils that Christ had swept out of it.

As we understand dispensationally, this was the next event on the calendar of the prophets. But God interjected something that was never prophesied, the dispensation of grace.

And that is where we'll pick it up next week. What are devils doing today? And what about those spirits that aren't called devils, but diviners, witches, consultants with familiar spirits and so on – are they still around in this dispensation?