

I. OUR SPIRITUAL ENEMY: "SATAN"

A. The Name by which our Spiritual Enemy is Called.

1. The name Satan (Satanas) which is given to our spiritual enemy means "adversary".
2. This interpretation of his name is derived from the many instances which reveal his activities of resisting and opposing God and others (Job 1:6-12; 2:1; Zech. 3:1).

B. The Notions that some People Have

1. Some people suppose that Satan or the devil is just simply the personification of evil influences in one's heart. To them Satan would be a name given to the wicked impulses that characterize every person's life. But the Scriptures point out that Satan is more than the personification of evil, he is a real spirit being who resisted and tested Christ in whose heart was no evil thoughts or impulses (Matt. 4:3,5,8; Jn. 14:30; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15).
2. Some people suppose there's no need for vigilance or for waging warfare against Satan. They suppose since you can't see this adversary there's no real threat and there's no need to do anything for protection. Note there are many invisible threats to a person's well-being. Just because a person doesn't see electricity doesn't mean it can't kill. The same is true of so many of the germs and viruses that threaten the physical health and well-being of mankind.

C. The Nature of our Spiritual Enemy which is Derived from this Name

1. Our spiritual enemy is a fallen angel of the angelic order called cherubim. He became the "adversary" of God when he acted out of pride, rebelled against God, and was cast out of his heavenly position as a consequence (Isa. 14:12-15). Since that time he has worked to resist and oppose God's purposes with mankind. Tempting Eve and bringing the curse upon mankind illustrates this hatred toward God and His creation (Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 5:12).
2. Satan opposes and works against unsaved people to keep them in a lost condition so they will lose out on heaven and spend eternity in hell (I Cor. 11:14,15; Acts 26:16-18; II Thess. 2:9).
3. Satan also opposes the people of God and resists their efforts to serve God and carry out His will in this world (Neh. 4-6; Lk. 22:31; Acts 5:3; I Cor. 5:5; 7:5; II Cor. 2:10,11; I Thess. 2:18).

D. The Necessity for Defending Oneself against our Adversary

1. The bible says believers are to be vigilant or on guard against the devil (I Pet. 5:8).
2. Believers are told to arm themselves with specific weapons of warfare (Eph. 6:11-18).
3. Believers are exhorted to resist the devil and fight against him while submitting themselves to God and obeying His Word (James 4:6,7).