

No 1. Satan's Involvement in Sickness and Disease

THE CAUSES OF SICKNESSES AND DISEASES

There are multiple causes of sickness, diseases, and death – hereditary, genetic, mental, psychological, infections, bodily neglect or abuse, injuries, and so forth.

This study proposes to examine a further influence – that of Satan and his demon spirits, and to suggest that they may have a far greater influence than we have first thought.

THE ORIGIN OF SIN, SICKNESS, AND DEATH

Whatever the causes, all sickness and death ultimately originated in the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden. To test Adam's obedience, God set a clear choice before him.

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for IN THE DAY THAT YOU EAT OF IT YOU SHALL SURELY DIE." Gen 2:16-17.

At this point Satan entered into the circumstances to provide an alternative choice.

"Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." Gen 3:4-7.

The following are some of the consequences of Eve's disobedience.

1. Through Eve's influence, Adam, the representative of future mankind, chose to obey Satan, and disobey God. The consequences were dire. The apostle Paul said, **"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"** Romans 6:16.
2. When Adam and Eve rendered their obedience to Satan, they were deprived of their right to eternal life, and they, and all mankind, were confronted with the power of sickness, disease, and eventual death.
3. God had granted Adam authority to have dominion over the planet earth and all of its created forms of life. **"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."** Gen 1:28.

Because of the fall, man lost his absolute dominion over creation, which itself became a victim of the fall, becoming prey to Satan's destructive influence. **"For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the**

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” Rom 8:20-21.

4. Because of man’s diminishing control over creation, the earth and its created life forms have succumbed more and more to Satan’s influence, to the end that the apostle Paul declared Satan to be **“the god of this world.”** 2 Cor 4:4.
5. Man lost his personal face to face relationship with God. **“Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” — therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”** Gen 3:22-24.

Satan was the tempter, but the disobedience was Adam’s, and as a result, sin followed by sickness and death, entered the world. Because man now had the knowledge of good and evil, temptation and sin and death spread to all mankind.

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” Rom 5:12.

Satan manifested himself in the Garden of Eden,

- to usurp God’s sovereignty over man,
- to gain dominion over the world,
- to introduce sin and death into the world,
- to take away man’s right to eternal life.

By comparison, Jesus came to restore eternal life to man, and to take away Satan’s authority to hold man captive to the law of sin and death.

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Heb 2:14-16.

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8-9.

CAN SATAN ACTUALLY CREATE SICKNESS AND DISEASE?

Compared with God’s creative power Satan’s power to create is limited. God may determine or speak, and substance is created out of nothing. By comparison, the Scriptures suggest that Satan can change the structure or nature of what has already been created. Let us examine some examples. The following happenings occurred when Moses and Aaron confronted Pharaoh’s magicians, who demonstrated Satan’s power to change the nature of substance.

Example 1.

“And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents.” Ex 7:10-13.

Example 2.

“So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments” Ex 7:20-22.

Example 3

“So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.” Ex 8:5-7.

Example 4 -- Satan’s power is limited.

“Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not.” Ex 8:16-18.

Example 5. -- Satan’s intrusion in Job’s circumstances.

The Book of Job describes Job’s reactions to afflictions and sicknesses that God allowed Satan to afflict him with. It is clear from the following readings that it was Satan who afflicted Job.

When God drew Satan’s attention to Job’s righteousness and integrity, Satan replied,

"A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, HE IS IN YOUR HANDS; but you must spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head." Job 2:4-7.

It was SATAN who afflicted Job with painful sores.

Satan Caused the Disasters that Struck Job and His Children.

1. **“...a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabeans raided them and took them away -- indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"** Job 1:14-15.

God removed His hedge of protection and relinquished Job, his substance, and his circumstances into Satan's hands. Satan had the capacity to direct the minds and hearts of the Sabeans' to pillage Job's livestock.

2. "While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The FIRE of God FELL FROM HEAVEN and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" Job 1:16.

The "fire of God" was from Satan, who has the capacity to direct fire on to the earth.

3. "While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and suddenly A GREAT WIND CAME FROM ACROSS THE WILDERNESS and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" Job 1:14-19.

God had said to Satan, "he is in your hands." We can conclude that Satan has the power to change natural circumstances – in this case to direct a hurricane like wind to destroy Job's children.

We can observe similar circumstances in Satan's attempt to destroy Jesus and His disciples.

"Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm." Matt 8:23-27.

Jesus rebuked the wind because He knew Satan, who had come "to kill and destroy," had initiated it.

The Scriptures Confirm Satan's Involvement in Sickness, Infirmary, and Diseases

The gospels disclose that a good portion of Christ's ministry on earth was devoted to healing sicknesses that were regarded as an oppression from Satan.

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and HEALING ALL WHO WERE OPPRESSED BY THE DEVIL, for God was with Him." Acts 10:38-39.

"And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. Replying to critics, He said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, WHOM SATAN HAS BOUND -- think of it -- for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" Lk 13:11-13 & 15-17.

"Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. And

behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. 40 So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not... And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father." Luke 9:37-42.

“Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.” Luke 4:38-39. Jesus rebuked the fever because it was from Satan.

In Healing, Jesus was Doing God's Work

In healing the sick Jesus was doing God's will by manifesting His name of Jehovah Rapha, **“He who heals you.”** Healing expresses God's desire for man's wellbeing.

"If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. FOR I AM THE LORD WHO HEALS YOU." Ex 15:25-26.

Psalm 103 states,

**“Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases...”** Ps 103:2-3.

Jesus came to undo the work of Satan, who came to kill and destroy.

“the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8-9.

WAYS IN WHICH GOD OVERCOMES SATAN'S POWER OF SIN AND DEATH

God provided atonement for us that we are delivered from Satan's right to afflict our bodies with sickness.

“...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree [cross], that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed.” 1 Peter 2:24.

Jesus bore the consequences of our sins – sickness, pains, infirmities and death.

Not only has God provided the spiritual basis for our healing, He has also provided physical methods of healing. Ultimately all healing is a provision from God, and all are valid – all of equal importance. Here are some examples.

- 1. Medical Science and Practice.** Jesus validated the practice of physical medicine when He equated His own ministry with that of a physician. Both ministries were directed at those tormented by Satan. Both are from God and are subject to His blessing.

“When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”” Mark 2:17.

Luke, the author of the gospel bearing his name, was called, **“the beloved physician.”** Col 4:15.

God’s name *‘Jehovah Rapha,’* means **“He who heals.”** He has provided healing for all in the world, both good and bad, through the practice of medicine. All of its discoveries and advancements are directed to mankind by Him. This is in accordance with His nature and faithfulness in caring for the needs of mankind.

2. **Spiritual Healing.** This was demonstrated by the healing ministry of Jesus. Although the Medical Profession has lessened much of the need for spiritual healing, there are many diseases, particularly those resulting from sin, that will only be overcome by spiritual healing. Spiritual healing is available to those who believe in the merit of Christ’s atoning sacrifice, and are open to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Medical healing is enhanced when it is accompanied by spiritual prayer and testimony.

3. **Continued Walking in Health.** God not only provided us spiritual healing, but also the spiritual means to walk in health. The following readings demonstrate His desire for us.

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” 3 John 2-3.

“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved [healed and preserved] by His life.” Rom 5:10-11.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW SATAN’S INVOLVEMENT IN SICKNESS?

Jesus stated, **“...the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil,”** (1Jn 3:8). His healing ministry was typical of Him undoing the works of Satan. All Christian ministries are directed at undoing the works of the devil. When we engage in the healing ministry we are one with Jesus, provided that it is Jesus who initiates and that it is He who directs and who heals. **IT IS NOT A WORK OF THE FLESH.**

“Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.” Acts 14:2-3.

A healing ministry must be in order. Lawless self initiated works lead to lying signs and wonders that have their origin in Antichrist.