

SATAN, SCHEMES, AND STRATEGY



Satan



- Is the devil just a force that causes us to do evil?
- Or, is the devil a being who tries to destroy us?
- Ephesians 6:12
 - ▣ A spiritual being working in the spiritual realm.
- How should we view Satan?

An Intimidator

- Satan is someone who uses fear and threats to make us side with him.
- 1 Peter 5:8 depicts him as a roaring lion.
 - ▣ 1 Peter 5:9, 10
- Described as a fiery red dragon in Revelation 12:1-4.
 - ▣ Revelation 12:13, 17
- His tactics may include peer pressure.
 - ▣ Galatians 2:11-13

A Deceiver

- ❑ Lures us to do wrong and causes us to act irrationally.
- ❑ 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:14
- ❑ Genesis 3:1-6 records the deception.
 - ❑ I don't know how effective Satan would have been had he appeared as a roaring lion.
- ❑ Satan knows how to spin a good tale.
 - ❑ Esau sold his birthright; Judas sold Jesus
 - ❑ Is your soul for sale?

Satan and the Early Church

- We see both pictures of Satan in the book of Acts.
- **The intimidator.**
 - ▣ Acts 5:40; 7:54-59; 8:3; 9:1, 2; 26:11
- **The deceiver.**
 - ▣ Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 4:34—5:9
- Satan was not successful. Acts 5:14, 40-42

Bad News, Good News



❑ **Bad News**

- ❑ Satan is strong.
- ❑ Satan is cunning.

❑ **Good News**

- ❑ We know his schemes!
 - 2 Corinthians 2:10, 11
- ❑ With God's strength and our preparation, we can overcome him!
 - Ephesians 6:10-13

Our Strategy

- Satan will try to hit us with strength and deception.
- Therefore...
 - ▣ Resist him. 1 Peter 5:9; James 4:7
 - ▣ Know that you're not alone. 1 Peter 5:9
 - Study examples of strength. Hebrews 11
 - ▣ See the future. Hebrews 11:24-26

Conclusion



- Take Satan seriously.
 - ▣ Be alert! Be cautious!
- Know that you can overcome him with the aid of God supplementing your effort.
- Romans 8:37-39
- Will you submit to Jesus as Lord so He can be your Savior?