

Venom: Emotion: Satanic Influence: Rulership, Strategy, Religion, False Teachers

The rulership power of Satan is threefold:

- a. He is the ruler of all fallen angels. Compare Ezekiel 28:14, Ezekiel 28:15, Ezekiel 28:16 with:

Revelation 12:9 - The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world [**satanic influence**]; he was thrown down to the earth, and his [**autos: the genitive of relationship from the singular masculine pronoun**] angels were thrown down with him.

- b. He is the ruler of this world and is called that by our Lord on three occasions in the Gospel of John:

John 12:31 - Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.

John 14:31 - I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

John 16:11 - ... the ruler of this world has been judged.

- c. His is the ruler of all unbelievers:

2 Corinthians 4:3 - Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

2 Corinthians 4:4 - in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- d. He rules certain believers who are caught up in this world we're living in and develop chronic sins:

Ephesians 4:27 - Stop giving the Devil a chance to exert his influence.

NOTE: We are reminded here of Ron Block's line from his song, "*There Is a Reason*":

I give my heart so easily to the ruler of this world / When the One who loves me most will give me all.

Satan has a strategy to control believers but they have the power to resist him according to:

James 4:7 - Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

2 Corinthians 2:11 - In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan for we are not ignorant of his strategies.

Chafer, Lewis Sperry. Systematic Theology. Vol. 2. Dallas: Dallas Seminary Press, 1947; pp. 103-04:

Satan has always adapted his methods to the times and conditions. If attention has been gained, a complete denial of the truth has been made, or, when some recognition of the truth is demanded, it has been granted on the condition that that which is vital in salvation should be omitted. This partial recognition of the truth is required by the world today.

By advocating much truth, in the form of a counterfeit system of truth, Satan can satisfy all the external religious cravings of the world, and yet accomplish his own end by withholding that on which man's only hope depends. It is therefore, no longer safe to subscribe blindly to that which promises general good, simply because it is good and is garnished with the teachings of the Bible; for good has ceased to be all on the one side and evil all on the other. In fact, that which is evil in purpose has gradually appropriated the good until but one issue distinguishes them. Part-truth-ism has come into final conflict with whole-truth-ism, and woe to the soul that does not discern between them!

Satan is the enemy of the church:

- a. Certain churches are referred to as synagogues of Satan:

Revelation 2:9 - I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews but are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

- b. Religion is identified as Satan's throne in:

Revelation 2:13 - I know where you dwell, you dwell where Satan's throne is [the City of Pergamum was a center for pagan religions] ...

NOTE: Two prominent pagan religions dominated the religious life of Pergamum. The first mentioned in Revelation 2:14 is the "teaching of Balaam," which advised Christians to conform to worldly standards rather than to stand fast in the face of persecution. The second, mentioned in Revelation 2:15, is the "teaching of the Nicolaitans" which approved of idolatrous practices. Both were licentious in their execution.

- c. Satan has a systematic theology of sorts which is classified as his advanced doctrines in:

Revelation 2:24 - But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching [of Jezebel], who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them ...

NOTE: The subject of Satan as enemy of the church is also taken up by **Dr. Chafer** in his **Systematic Theology**. I quote this time from **volume 2, pages 104-05**:

The real Church has by no means lost her foes, for they are now even more numerous, subtle, and terrible than ever before. These present enemies, however, like the unclean birds in the mustard tree, have taken shelter under her branches. They are officiating at her most sacred altars and conducting her institutions. These vultures are fed by a multitude, both in the church and out, who, in satanic blindness, are committed to the furtherance of any project or the acceptance of any theory that promises good to the world if it is apparently based upon Scripture, little realizing that they are often really supporting the enemy of God.

The only effective defense against the false doctrines of religion is a maximum inventory of Bible doctrine in your stream of consciousness.

1 Peter 5:6 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

1 Peter 5:7 - casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:8 - Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:9 - But resist him, being firm in your faith ...

Constantly clouding the waters are those “*unclean birds*” Dr. Chafer spoke of who pass themselves off as ministers of Christ but who are in reality false teachers who promote Satan’s strategy.

2 Corinthians 11:3 - I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:4 - If one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear with it beautifully.

2 Corinthians 11:13 - For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:14 - And no wonder; for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:15 - Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

The discerning believer can identify these false teachers by several characteristics:

- a. They project a facade of sweetness and light.

Matthew 7:15 - Beware of the false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Romans 16:17 - I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned and turn away from them.

Romans 16:18 - For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Jesus Christ, but of their own appetites [KJV: “*belly*”; Gk: *koilia*: “*emotions*”]; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

- b. They make appeals to those who are self-centered and thus disoriented to grace.

2 Corinthians 10:12 - We are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

- c. False teachers inevitably get around to promoting some form of idolatry.

Habakkuk 2:18 - Of what value is an idol since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak.

Habakkuk 2:19 – Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, ‘Awake!’ To a dumb stone, ‘Arise!’ Can it give guidance? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver yet there is no breath at all inside it.

Habakkuk 2:20 - But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.