

SATAN HAS NO BLOOD

“Almost all things are by law purged with blood and without shedding of blood is no remission.” [Heb. 9:22]

Blood is the red liquid that flows through our veins and arteries. It carries oxygen and nutrients to all parts of the body and brings back carbon dioxide and other waste products to the lungs, kidneys and liver for disposal. Among its numerous duties, it fights against infection and helps wounds to heal. Therefore, there is no substitute for blood if the body is to remain healthy and alive.

On mount Sinai, where God gave Moses divine and ceremonial laws to guide human conduct, He said, “the life of the flesh is in the blood” [Lev. 17:11]. That was why when Cain killed his brother, Abel, God said to him, “the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto Me from the ground” [Gen. 4:10]. The Lord also gave Moses blood “upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls for it is the blood that maketh an atonement” [Lev. 17:11]. Under the Old Covenant, the high priest took the blood of animals once every year into the tabernacle, the “Holiest of all”, to offer for himself and the people as atonement for their sins [Ex. 30:10; Heb. 9:7] “that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord” [Lev. 16:30]. In the New Covenant, however, Jesus Christ, the High Priest of the order of Melchisedec [Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7:11-22] shed His blood on Calvary. “By His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us” [Heb. 9:12].

Those who are closest to us are related to us by blood. Parents, children, brothers and sisters are all bonded by blood. Even your best friend who may not be a member of your family is ready to die for you, that is, shed his/her blood for you. David and Jonathan are ready examples [1 Sam. 18: 3-4]. Jesus came in flesh and shed His blood for us. As a descendant of Adam, He is our brother by blood. By laying down His life for us, He is our friend [Jn 15:13-14]. By atoning for our sins, He is the Saviour of the world [Jn 1:29]. By our accepting Him as our personal Lord and Saviour, He has made us sons of God [Jn 1:12] and joint-heirs with Him in His Father’s kingdom [Rom. 8:17]. Therefore, the world will ultimately bow before Him [Phil. 2:10-11].

Now, what is our blood relationship with Satan? He was a fallen angel. Angels were created by God as “ministering spirits” [Heb. 1:14] to the saints. We do not wrestle “against flesh and blood,” but against satanic forces [Eph. 6:12] who don’t accept that Jesus Christ came in flesh [1 Jn 4:2-3]. Therefore, from all the evidence at my disposal, Satan has no blood! If Satan has no blood, then, he can’t be our brother or friend or saviour. So, why then are we so afraid of him? How has he come to have so much hold on the world? That is the subject of today’s lesson.

1. A profile of Satan

With God, His word is His bond “for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name” [Ps. 138:2]. Of Satan, however, Jesus had this to say: “he was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it” [Jn 8:44]. What a report card! Jesus knew Satan from his days in heaven and He saw him when he fell like lightning from there [Lk 10:18].

Satan bears numerous names, such as Lucifer [Is. 14:12], the great dragon, old serpent or the devil [Rev. 12:9], Beelzebub [Matt. 12:24] or Belial [2 Cor. 6:15], the wicked one [Matt. 13:19] or the adversary [1 Pet. 5:8] or the accuser [Rev. 12:10], etc. All his names suggest that he can't be trusted, as Jesus has summarized it. Here is his curriculum vita (résumé):

- ❑ God created him as an anointed cherub who was perfect in beauty. He lived in heaven like the other angels until iniquity was found in him [Ezek. 28:12-15].
- ❑ His pride and rebellion led to war in heaven. God's forces led by Michael defeated Satan and his evil angels who were all cast down to earth [Rev. 12:7-9].
- ❑ He did not accept defeat. Instead, he planned to return to heaven and exalt his throne above that of God [Is. 14:12-14]. So, God decided to confine him permanently in hell [Is. 14:15].
- ❑ In furtherance of that plan, *Elohim* (the God-in-Three-persons) made Adam and Eve in His image and likeness to exercise dominion over the earth [Gen. 1:26] on to which Satan had been thrown.
- ❑ Adam and Eve fell to Satan's seduction by eating the forbidden fruit, thereby disobeying God [Gen. 3:6-7]. As a result, man lost his citizenship rights and was cast out of the Garden of Eden, God's embassy on earth at the time [Gen. 3:24].
- ❑ Satan thought that he had won but he forgot that God had promised the “seed of the woman” who would bruise Satan's head [Gen. 3:15]. In due season, God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in human form as the son of Mary and foster-father, Joseph [Lk 2:1-7].
- ❑ Satan tried everything to stop Jesus, such as getting Herod to kill infants two years and below [Matt. 2:16-18], or tempting Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days and nights [Matt. 4:1-11].
- ❑ The devil thought that he had won when Jesus was crucified on the Cross at Calvary and even tried to ‘prevent’ His resurrection by getting Roman officials to seal His grave [Matt. 27:62-66].
- ❑ Jesus rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of His Father. All power in heaven and in earth has been given to Him and He remains with believers always till the end of time [Matt. 28: 18-20].

Christ's victory over sin and Satan has made us more than conquerors. Therefore, Satan has no basis to have any control over us. He has no blood!

2. Why then does Satan still hold sway over the world?

In Chinua Achebe's novel, *Arrow of God*, the colonial District Officer was rushed to the hospital soon after he had signed a warrant for the arrest of some elders of the village. A strong rumour soon spread on Government Hill that the expatriate officer had been felled by the spiritual powers of the elders. Meanwhile, medical tests suggested that he had malaria fever.

When scientists want to explain something, they develop what they call a *theory*. A theory is simply a way of looking at something. In the above story, we can identify two theories of explaining the District Officer's illness. The medical doctor said that it was due to malaria fever. The spiritualists saw the illness as caused by the elders that the District officer had arrested. Interestingly, both could be right! It could be explained that Job's children were killed when the roof of their house caved in on them during a storm but Satan caused the storm [**Job 1:18-19**]!

In trying to explain why Satan still holds sway over the world, I hereby propose the following three theories:

- ❑ *God is using Satan as His battle axe*
- ❑ *Satan is powerful*
- ❑ *We have allowed Satan to have power over us*

(a) Satan as God's battle axe

In **Isaiah 10:5-6**, God says of the Emperor of Assyria:

O Assyria, the rod of Mine anger, and the staff in their hand is Mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation and against the people of Mine wrath will I give him a charge to take the spoil and to take the prey and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Also, when God wanted King Ahab killed in battle, He put a lying spirit in the mouth of 400 prophets who told him that he would win [**1 Kgs 22:20-22**].

Let's face it. Many of us might never have run to God if Satan had not given us hell! The Prodigal Son ran back to his father when he started counting his ribs from hunger [**Lk 15:17-18**]. When we find ourselves in "slippery places" about to be cast "down into destruction," [**Ps. 73:18**], we cry to God, "how long, Lord? Wilt Thou be angry for ever?" [**Ps. 79:5**].

Of course, Satan cannot fight for God because he is pursuing those who “keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” [Rev. 12:17]. A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand [Mk 3:24]. So, this theory cannot adequately explain why the world is still under the devil’s sway.

(b) Satan is powerful

As believers, we are not immune from Satan’s attacks. He tempted Jesus in the wilderness. He provoked David to disobey God by taking a census of Israel [1 Chron. 21:1]. He afflicted Job with a string of calamities to force him to lose faith in God [Job 1:6- 20]. He is up there in heavenly places, accusing the brethren falsely before God [Zech. 3:1]. He was the one who sifted Peter to the point of denying Jesus thrice [Lk 22:31]. We also remember his famous victory over Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Satan is not omnipresent [Job 1:7] and he cannot go beyond where God allows him. For example, in respect of Job, God told Satan, “behold, he is in thine hand but save his life” [Job 2:6]. So, even though as a liar he would have gone beyond that limit, he could not kill Job. In addition, Satan’s attacks have no rhyme or rhythm. A huge snake that is doing so much havoc with its tail may actually be dying. Unless you know that its head has been cut off, you may be afraid even of its tail! Two thousand years ago, Jesus cut off the head of the serpent, the devil, and having disarmed “principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it” [Col. 2:15]. We are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us [Rom. 8:37]. If we resist the devil, he will flee from us [Jam. 4:7]. Therefore, this theory cannot also hold water.

(c) We have allowed Satan to control us

In his famous book, *The Functions of the Executive*, published by Harvard University in the 1950’s, Chester Barnard developed what has popularly been called the *Acceptance Theory of Leadership*. Let me try to put it in simple language.

When you ask people why they obey their leaders, some may say they like them or fear them or they don’t know. However, the word of God says that we should obey people in authority because God ordained them [Rom. 13:1-4]. On that basis, kings claimed that they had the *divine right* to rule. Under democratic pressures, they then “delegated” the power to parliament of elected representatives of the people, which in turn made laws to govern the people. From that point on, we have the police, the army, etc., to enforce the laws. If we disobey, we expect under normal circumstances to be punished. In recent times, however, we have seen cases, such as in former Yugoslavia, Peru and the Philippines, where the people revolted against their elected officials and forced them out of office through street protests, not military *coups*. Even policemen and

soldiers tacitly supported the people's action. How do you explain that law and order could not be maintained under such circumstances?

That is where Barnard's theory makes a great deal of sense. According to him, a leader has no power unless his followers give it to him! As long as a leader says or does what his/her followers are also saying or doing, they will obey him/her. Therefore, between the leader and his/her followers, there is a *zone of indifference*, that is a range of issues, values and practices over which they are mutually agreed. However, the moment the leader steps outside of that zone, the followers will not obey even if the leader rolls out tanks on the streets!

Between our human nature and Satan's devices, there is a zone of indifference. On human nature, here is what Paul said:

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members [Rom. 7:22-23]

According to the Psalmist, "every man at *his best state* is altogether vanity" [Ps. 39:5]. People "call their lands after their own names" [Ps. 49:11] and "trust in their wealth and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches" [Ps. 49:6]. Human nature manifests as adultery, fornication, idolatry, witchcraft, drunkenness, reveling, etc. [Gal. 5:19-21].

When Satan comes to tempt us with the "lust of the flesh", the "lust of the eyes" and the "pride of life" [1 Jn 2:15-16], we are already there! So, we embrace him and he becomes our leader. When we run into trouble, we claim that the devil made us do it. Since he is a liar and the father of lies, he does not refuse the powers and influence that we have arrogated to him! So, he can afford to roar like a lion looking for whom to devour [1 Pet. 5:8]!

3. Conclusion

Satan or Lucifer is a fallen angel. He is an evil spirit who was *never* a human being. Therefore, he has no blood relationship with us. On the other hand, Jesus Christ is the Son of God who witnessed Satan's fall from heaven. Jesus came as a human being, born of an earthly mother (Mary) and the Holy Spirit of God. He shed His precious blood for us on Calvary, and "He was manifested to take away our sins and in Him is no sin" [1 Jn 3:5]. Consequently, He has become our brother, friend and Redeemer.

So, what are you afraid of? What concord have you with Satan when God has, through Christ, made you His temple? He now dwells in you and you have become His son/daughter and He is your Father [2 Cor. 6:14-18]. That *zone of indifference*, which you are sharing with Satan (no matter how slim), cannot lead you to eternal life or grant you peace of mind. Since you put yourself there, only you can take yourself

out and Satan *cannot* stop you when God beckons. Jesus is waiting at the door. Go now because a little later may be too late!