

SATAN'S STRATEGY AND OUR DEFENSE - SATAN AS ACCUSER

Example: Joshua Scripture: Zech. 3

SATAN'S TARGET = THE HEART AND CONSCIENCE

JOSHUA in Zechariah chapter 3 – is wearing filthy clothes, representing sinful Israel; a holy God should judge, but He instead cleanses and makes holy in intercession!

*“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”* -- Rev. 12:10

“Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, **lest Satan should take advantage of us**; for *we are not ignorant of his devices.*” - 2 Cor. 2:10, 11

SATAN'S WEAPON = ACCUSATION

- 1) Satan lies to us *about* God, but will use our sin against us in *telling the truth to God to accuse* us by our own heart and conscience...
- 2) Must distinguish between devil's accusation and Spirit's conviction.
 - a] **Satan accuses** - makes us feel *helpless* and *hopeless* when we sin (Peter, Judas)
 - b] **Spirit of God convicts** - makes a way back to fellowship by His Word and love
“For **godly sorrow** produces **repentance** leading to salvation, not .to be regretted; but the **sorrow of the world** produces **death.**” -- 2 Cor. 7:10 {see also 1 Pet. 4:12-19}

SATAN'S PURPOSE = INDICTMENT BY GOD'S WILL

- 1) Satan wants us to have *regret* and *remorse*, but **NOT repentance**.
 - a] **Unforgiven guilt** leads to *ineffectiveness* for God.
 - b] **Godly repentance** leads to *forgiveness* and *service* for God.

‘It is actually reported *that there* is sexual immorality among you and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles; that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For Indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” -- 1 Cor. 5:1-5

“This punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority *is* sufficient for such a man,”
-- 2 Cor 2:6
(See 2 Cor. 2:7,8,11 — offer love, acceptance. Forgiveness; don’t help the
Accuser)

OUR DEFENSE = INTERCEDING SON OF GOD

TRUST HIM “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.
And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” --
1 John 2:1

FORSAKE SIN “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and
to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” -- 1 John 1:9

SATAN’S RESISTANCE (Zech 3:1) - GODS REBUKE (3:2) – RESTORATION (3:4.5)
NAMES JOSHUA’S SINS BY GOD’S GRACE CARRY ON GOD’S
SERVICE

“Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in
doing good, as to a faithful Creator.” -- 1 Pet 4:19

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find
grace to help in time of need.” – Heb. 4:16

Questions to ponder:

- 1. Am I honestly ignorant of Satan's devices, of his ways of working against me?**
- 2. How can I tell the difference between Satan's accusations and God's conviction?**
- 3. How can I tell repentance from regret and remorse because of my sin?**
- 4. In what ways can I allow Jesus Christ to intercede for me when Satan accuses?**
- 5. Do I live by 1 Peter 4:19 and Hebrews 4:16? *How* do I do this?**