Crystallization-Study of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes #2: God, Man, and Satan 2/8-14

OL Summary:

I. The entire Bible is a record of the things concerning God, man, and Satan; therefore, in our reading of the Bible, we need to know not only the things concerning God and man but also the things concerning Satan: A. Satan was an angel and an anointed cherub created by God before God created the earth; he was the highest among the angels. B. Satan's rebellion against God is revealed in Isaiah 14:13-14 and Ezekiel 28:15-18. /Satan rebelled against God because of the pride in his heart; his heart was lifted up because of his beauty. /Satan's intention was to overthrow God's authority and to exalt himself to be equal with God; in his rebellion against God, Satan wanted to be on the same level as God. 6. Because of his rebellion, Satan became God's adversary, God's enemy. /Satan means "adversary"; as God's adversary, Satan opposes God. /Enemy refers to the foe outside of God's kingdom, whereas adversary refers to the foe from within God's kingdom. /Satan is not only God's enemy outside of God's kingdom but also God's adversary from within God's kingdom, rebelling against God.

II. The scene in Job 1 and 2 depicts two councils in heaven concerning Job: A. Because of His loving concern for Job, God held two councils in the heavens to talk about Job. B. The "sons of God," the angels, came to present themselves before Jehovah, and Satan, the adversary, also came among them. C. In His wisdom and sovereignty God did not execute His judgment on Satan but has given Satan a certain limited time to do something to meet some negative need in the fulfillment of His economy.

III. Satan has his kingdom, the authority of darkness: A. Satan has his authority and his angels, who are his subordinates as rulers, authorities, and world-rulers of the darkness of this world; hence, he has his kingdom, the authority of darkness. B. Satan is the ruler of this world and the ruler of the authority of the air.

IV. Through His ministry on earth and His death on the cross, the Lord Jesus was victorious over Satan: A. In His earthly ministry the victorious Christ defeated the devil and destroyed his works. B. In His crucifixion the victorious Christ cast out the ruler of this world, destroyed the devil, caused the rulers and authorities to be stripped off, and nullified death. C. Through the gospel of the kingdom, God brings people under the ruling of the heavenly authority so that they may become His kingdom, those who are ruled by His authority.

V. As believers in Christ Jesus and children of God, we need to learn to be victorious in Christ over Satan: A. We should not be ignorant of Satan's schemes. /The Greek word translated "schemes" means "plans, plots, designs, wiles, intentions, purposes." /The evil one, Satan, is behind the

scenes in everything and works in everything, even in the church life. B. We need to put on the whole armor of God so that we may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil. C. We need to be watchful against our adversary, the devil, who "as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour." /To be watchful is to be vigilant as in warfare, as with soldiers on the frontier. /The word watch in 1 Peter 5:8 implies fighting; we are involved in a warfare, and we need to be vigilant. /If we are vigilant, we will withstand our adversary, being firm in our faith. /To withstand is not to resist nor to struggle against but to stand firmly, like a rock, on the ground of our faith before the roaring devil. /Your faith in 1 Peter 5:9 refers to the believers' subjective faith, their faith in God's protecting power and loving concern. D. The best way for us to be victorious over Satan is to live in the mingled spirit.

VI. "The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly" (Rom. 16:20): A. The crushing of Satan is related to the church life—the strongest means by which God overcomes Satan. B. The Greek word rendered "your" in Romans 16:20 is plural; this points to the Body. C. It is significant that the One who crushes Satan under our feet is the God of peace.

W. After the man-child is raptured to the throne of God, there is war in heaven, Satan and his angels are cast down to the earth, and the kingdom of God is manifested: A. A man-child consists of the overcomers, who stand on behalf of the church, take the position that the whole church should take, and do the work of the church. B. The devil, the accuser, is now accusing the believers before God day and night, but the overcoming believers who constitute the man-child and who have been opposed and slandered by God's enemy, Satan, overcome him. /They overcome him "because of the blood of the Lamb". /The blood of the Lamb, which is for our redemption, answers before God all the accusations of the devil against us and gives us the victory over him. /We need to apply this blood whenever we sense the accusation of the devil. /They overcome him "because of the word of their testimony." /The word of their testimony is their word that testifies that the devil has been judged by the Lord. /Whenever we sense the devil's accusation, we should declare with the uttered word the Lord's victory over him. /The overcomers do not love their soul-life. /Not loving our soul-life is the basis for overcoming Satan, for our victory over Satan. /Not loving our soul-life means that we are willing to give up our own soul-life and that we do not care for our own soul-life. /Satan is afraid of only one kind of people—those who do not love their own soul-life. . The man-child is related to God's most important dispensational move. /God wants to end this age and bring in the age of the kingdom, and for this He must have the man-child as His dispensational instrument.

CP1:Satan rebelled against God due to the pride in his heart. Being proud makes you a follower of Satan and God is against you. But if you humble yourself, grace is given

OL1: The entire Bible is a record of the things concerning God, man, and Satan; therefore, in our reading of the Bible, we need to know not only the things concerning God and man but also the things concerning Satan. OL2: Satan was the "Daystar, son of the dawn", one of the first angels created by God at the "dawn" of the universe, appointed by God to be the head of all the angels. The anointed cherub was the one closest to God, and having both the kingship and the priesthood, he held the highest position in God's creation. OL3: Satan rebelled against God because of the pride in his heart; his heart was lifted up because of his beauty. Satan looked at his brightness and became corrupted. To look at what God has made us and forget God Himself always tempts us to be proud. Pride was the cause of Satan's rebellion. So, the apostle would never allow "a new convert" to be an elder in the church, "lest being blinded with pride he fall into the judgment suffered by the devil" (1 Tim. 3:6). All the natural virtues and attributes, and all the spiritual gifts can be utilized by the devil to make us proud. ... The proud devil is still prowling about on the earth, seeking the proud ones whom he may devour. The only way to "withstand" him is to "humble" ourselves, to gird ourselves with humility because "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" (1 Pet. 5:5). The Lord Jesus is a good example in this matter. Satan exalted himself, but the Lord Jesus "humbled Himself". Thus, the Lord overcame Satan, and Satan had nothing in Him. OL4: In His wisdom and sovereignty God did not execute His judgment on Satan but has given Satan a certain limited time to do something to meet some negative need in the fulfillment of His economy: God could not and would not ask any of His many excellent angels to do what was needed to damage Job in order to strip him of everything so that he might be full of God.

Job 2:4-7 Then Satan...said,...Indeed all that a man has he will give for the sake of his life. But stretch forth Your hand, and touch his bone and his flesh; and he will surely curse You to Your face. And Jehovah said to Satan, Here he is, in your hand; only spare his life. And Satan went forth from Jehovah's presence and struck Job with severe boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

<u>OL5</u>: The scene in chapters 1 and 2 of Job shows us that Satan remains free to be purposely used by God as an ugly tool to execute God's severe dealing with His loving ones.

Application to New ones and Youth/College students

Young people and new ones, don't be proud when you see your natural strengths or spiritual gifts that God has given you. It is God's grace that you have such good qualities. Don't be like Satan who was so proud of his own magnificence and beauty and

forgot God. <u>1 Cor.15:10</u> But by the grace of God I am what I am; <u>1 Pet.5:5</u> In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

FN "gird yourselves with humility": This figure came evidently from Peter's impression of how the Lord girded Himself with a towel when He humbled Himself to wash the disciples' feet, especially Peter's. 6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time, 7 Casting all your anxiety on Him because it matters to Him concerning you. 8 Be sober; watch. Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour. FN "seeking":Peter here warned the believers who were suffering in persecution. If they would not be humbled under God's mighty hand and cast their anxiety on God, they would be devoured by the roaring lion, the devil, their adversary. This teaches us that pride and anxiety make us delicious prey to satisfy the hunger of the roaring lion. In this matter Peter no doubt could not forget the Lord's warning to him regarding the devil's desire.

A Brother's Testimony: When I had a small success, like getting good marks on a school test, or when I prophesied in a meeting and brothers and sisters gave me a loud amen, I would mumbled to myself, 'I am so superior. Even with the Lord's help, am I not better than others?' However, I thank God for the environment without for His stripping and the enlightening of the Holy Spirit within. One time, because of my pride, I did not get along with my boss at work and my boss bullied me. At that time, I was complaining in my heart, but when I turned to my spirit and prayed, the Holy Spirit enlightened me and I realized that my boss was being used by the Lord to deal with my pride. I gradually came to realize that DBoth natural and spiritual abilities were given to me by the Lord, and without His grace, I would not be here right now 12 If the small pride is left untreated, the germs of the pride will multiply and overwhelm, so we must be relentless and deal with the small pride as soon as it appears 3 Never get carried away by Satan's temptations and become a follower of Satan 4 It is the Lord's mercy and grace that enables me to love the Lord and be in the local church in Lord's recovery. **5** Because the source of blessings is God and not myself, I must not trust in myself, but look up to the Lord, trust in the Lord, and become one with the Lord. And I started fearing to be proud. When the pride was thoroughly dealt with, I began to be blessed beyond my imagination in business life. I have been blessed by training myself to take heed to all kinds of pride and deal with them thoroughly as soon as they arise, even a little. Apart from Christ, I'm nothing but sin. But in Christ, I can do all things! Amen!

CP2:By putting your mind on the spirit
and stay on the cross, you can overcome Satan
in the victory of the cross of Christ

OL1: Satan has his kingdom, the authority of darkness. OL2: When we were dead in offenses and sins, we walked according to "the age of this world", the modern appearance, the present course, of the world, the satanic system. OL3: Through His ministry on earth and His death on the cross, the Lord Jesus was victorious over Satan. 1 John 3:8 ... The Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Heb. 2:14 ... That through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil. OL4: In His earthly ministry the victorious Christ defeated the devil and destroyed his works. In His crucifixion the victorious Christ cast out the ruler of this world, destroyed the devil, caused the rulers and authorities to be stripped off, and nullified death. Through the gospel of the kingdom, God brings people under the ruling of the heavenly authority so that they may become His kingdom, those who are ruled by His authority.

Satan was defeated only at Golgotha, and he was defeated at Golgotha forever. Hence, all those who are joined to the Lamb of Golgotha, who stand on the basis of His victory at Golgotha, not attempting to gain another new victory but expressing the one unique victory in the present battle, will overcome. Defeat comes when one trusts in the self, but victory comes when one stands on the ground of Golgotha. Golgotha is the place of victory! OL5:The evil one, Satan, is behind the scenes in everything and works in everything, even in the church life. Putting on the whole armor of God enables us to stand against the stratagems of the devil. Eph. 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. OL6: One of Satan's stratagems against the saints of the Most High is to wear them out; when we see that Satan is wearing us out, we will have the power to withstand and oppose his wearing-out tactics. OL7: There is only one place that Satan cannot invade—our spirit. Whether or not we are under Satan's authority is not determined by the things we do; rather, it is determined by whether we are in the spirit or in the flesh. 1 John 5:18 ... He who has been begotten of God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him. 2 Tim. 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

When we stay in the spirit, we are built up in the Body in a practical way. But if we stay in our minds, we shall be divided. This is true not only in the church life, but also in married life. If I remain in my mind and my wife remains in her mind, it will be impossible for us to be one. I have learned to have a healthy fear of staying in my mind.... When we find ourselves thinking critically of others, we need to turn immediately to the Lord in our spirit and pray. We all must learn the lesson of turning to the spirit and staying there.

Application to the serving ones

You need to stay in your spirit and stay on the cross. If you stay on the cross in the spirit, you can overcome Satan in the victory of the cross of Christ. Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. FN" mind": The mind is the leading part of the soul, which is man's personality, his person. The mind thus represents the soul, that is, the person himself. In this chapter the mind is neutral, being between the regenerated mingled spirit and the fallen body, the flesh. If it relies on and attaches itself to the regenerated spirit, which is mingled with the Spirit of God, the mind will bring us into the spirit and into the enjoyment of the divine Spirit as the law of the Spirit of life. If the mind attaches itself to the flesh and acts independently, it will bring us into the flesh, causing us to be at enmity with God and to be unable to please Him.

at enmity with God and to be unable to please Him. If we put our mind on the flesh, we accept Satan's speaking and eat the knowledge of good and evil like Eve did and become one with Satan. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil which is Satan involves not only evil matters but also the superficial goodness which is independent from God. And result in scattering death in the living. This is very terrifying. For example, after you served with certain saints, you start hating them and criticize them. Bible expresses this as "beating". This kind of thought comes from Satan the devil and the result of staying in such mind of the flesh is death and division. Discord and division among people, the divorces among couples all come from the mind of the flesh. The criticism, hatred and division are usual in the world but there is no place for them in the kingdom of God. You need to wipe out the mind from the flesh thoroughly from the service in the church life. Never say excuses or allow the mind of flesh thinking it is O.K. to have it just a little bit. Please pray "Lord, the feeling of dislike, hating and criticizing my brothers and sisters is the mind of the flesh and death. I eliminate such feeling of death thoroughly from my mind. I don't want to open my mind to the flesh and death. I want to open my mind to the spirit alone. I am afraid of putting my mind on the flesh". The principle of Satan is division and God's principle is oneness. In practicality, division comes from opening your mind to the flesh and oneness comes from opening your mind to the spirit. Gal. 5:19 And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20...enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, 21 Envyings, ... of which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Brother's testimony: The brother I lived with in the brother's house was a very sensitive and proud person. I was troubled because our personalities did not match. However, I felt that if I left it as it was, even if we lived together, our hearts would drift apart and we would divide internally. I returned to my spirit and prayed, "Lord, let me be built up". I accepted his slightly proud attitude and confessed my failures to him. As a result, I was able to communicate with him. Prayer: "Lord, if I open my mind to the flesh, I end up eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil and become one with Satan. Let me put my mind on the spirit and experience life and peace as reality."

CP3: The landmarks of the overcomers: The blood of the Lamb, The word of their testimony, Not loving their soul-life, practice the Body life

OL1: "The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly" (Rom. 16:20). OL2: Romans 16 does not refer to the Body in a universal sense but to the local and practical expression of the Body. Dealing with Satan is a Body matter, not an individual matter. Satan can be crushed only under the feet of the practical expression of the Body in the local churches. OL3: When we are wholly sanctified by Him from within, we have peace with Him and with man in every way. The peace of God guards, mounts guard over, our hearts and our thoughts because the God of peace patrols before our hearts and thoughts in Christ, keeping us calm and tranquil. Rom. 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Paul brought us into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ by recommendations and greetings in order that the God of peace may crush Satan under our feet and that we may enjoy the rich grace of Christ. In Romans 16 the apostle Paul greeted the saints one by one, mentioning at least twenty-seven names.... Moreover, he greeted the saints generally. This shows that he had a considerable amount of knowledge, understanding, and care with regard to every one of them. Such recommendations and greetings show both the mutual concern among the saints and the mutual fellowship among the churches. OL4: After the man-child is raptured to the throne of God, there is war in heaven, Satan and his angels are cast down to the earth, and the kingdom of God is manifested. OL5: The war waged by the overcoming believers against Satan is actually the executing of the Lord's judgment upon him. Eventually, through their fighting, Satan is cast out of heaven. The rapture of the man-child brings an end to the church age and introduces the age of the kingdom. Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. 11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Whenever we were troubled by our temper in the past, we firstly confessed it, then asked the Lord for forgiveness, prayed to the Lord to help us, and finally made up our mind never to lose our temper again. I experienced this many times. But we should not do this anymore. When our temper is aroused, we should forget it and preach to Satan. Go to the source of the problem—Satan—and preach to him, saying, "Satan, you have been crucified on the cross."

Application to business person/graduate students Overcomer's Landmarks1,2,3,4: The Blood of the Lamb: The blood of the Lamb, which is for our redemption, answers before God all the accusations of the devil against us and gives us the victory over him. We need to apply this blood whenever we sense the accusation of the devil. The word of their testimony: The word of

their testimony is their word that testifies that the devil has been judged by the Lord. Whenever we sense the devil's accusation, we should declare with the uttered word the Lord's victory over him. Not loving our soul-life: Because of Adam's fall, Satan united himself with the life of the human soul, the self of man. Therefore, in order to overcome Satan, we should not love our soul-life, but rather hate it and deny it. Practice the Blending Life of the Body in the Local Church: Only when we have a proper local church as a practical expression of the Body will Satan be trampled under our feet.

The following is a specific example of the words of testimony of the overcomer in brother Lee's message. When the man-child is delivered and is raptured to the throne, he will say, "Satan, you were defeated by me on earth. Are you still here hiding in the heavens? Now I have come here to preach to you! Don't you remember the messages I gave you on earth?"... Then the man-child will say, "Satan, you should no longer be here! Get out!" As soon as this word is uttered by the man-child, Michael the archangel will lead all his angels to war against the dragon.... Then after he has been cast down to earth to damage it, we shall descend and say to him, "Satan, are you still here? Let me give you another sermon. Now is the time for you to go to the abyss." Then after the millennium there will be the fourth sermon given to Satan. At that time, Satan will instigate mankind to rebel against God. But we shall say, "Satan, listen to us. This is our last sermon. Now you must go to your destination—the lake of fire."... I hope that after you read this message you will give a strong word to the enemy, saying, "Satan, you have deceived me for years. But by reading these messages my eyes have been opened and I see that I must no longer be indifferent. Satan, you are not only God's enemy—you are also my enemy. From now on, I will be absolute for my Lord and I will never listen to you."

A brother's testimony: When I read the message of Brother Lee's ministry, I realized that there was a huge gap between his Bible-based message and my business life. I (a member of the Body of Christ), who was supposed to threaten Satan, was always threatened by Satan. For example, when the leaders of the Moabites and Ammonites despise Nehemiah and the Jews saying, "Will you rebel against the king?" Nehemiah answered and said to them aggressively, "The God of heaven Himself will make us prosper; therefore, we His servants will rise up and build. But you have no portion nor right nor memorial in Jerusalem. (2:20)" At times like this, if it had been me before, I would have withdrawn immediately when threatened. Even in business life, there were many situations like this. But in the light of the message of the ministry, every time Satan threatens, I can now say, "Satan, why should I be afraid of you? You are the one who should fear me. You are the father of lies, and I will not be intimidated by you. Your place is at the cross. Go back to the cross." Hallelujah!"