

Pastor Paul Bawden
Grace Evangelical Church
Sunday, August 8, 2010
"Imitation Glory"
Ezekiel 28:11-19

When I was in seminary a number of years ago, I waited on tables in the dining room before I was married.

We had one fellow who was always the last one finished with eating. He would eventually bring his dishes into the area where the dishes were washed.

One day the head waiter, who was prone to try something to make life interesting for someone, decided to have some fun with this fellow. On that day the dessert was gingerbread cake with whip cream on top of it.

Before the cake was taken to this particular seminarian, the head waiter took off the whip cream and put on some shaving cream. The shaving cream looked just like whip cream. You could not tell the difference. The fellow took his time eating and finally he came to his dessert. He started eating but soon discovered that what he thought was genuine was not genuine.

Although done all in good fun, there was deception taking place here, wasn't there?

Where does such deception come from? The Bible is clear that deception comes from the heart, our inner selves, for the heart is deceitful more than all else, and is desperately wicked, who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9).

Our text today, though, in Ezekiel 28:11-19, points us to the ultimate source of deceit, or imitation and counterfeit.

For this text doesn't just describe the king of Tyre referred to in these verses in Ezekiel 28, who was alive in the time of Ezekiel about the 6th century B.C., but most conservative scholars feel that behind the king of Tyre is a greater description of Lucifer, son of the morning, the angel of light, who is called:

Satan – meaning – adversary.
Devil – meaning – slanderer.

In Bible interpretation, this is called the law of double reference – where two personages can be referred to in the same passage.

What is Ezekiel 28:11-19 telling us about Satan, the Devil, yes, the god of this world?

I. Satan is a real personality (Ezekiel 28:12).

Notice the personal pronouns that are used to describe Satan.

"**You** had the seal of perfection" (28:12).

"**You** were in Eden" (28:13).

"Every precious stone was **your** covering" (28:13).

"**You** were the anointed cherub" (28:14).

"**You** were blameless in your ways" (28:15).

Obviously, the Bible's teaching is that Satan is a real personality.

In our world today such is not the case.

The majority of American Christians do not believe that Satan is a real being the latest Barna survey found (April 2009).

Nearly six out of ten Christians either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the statement that Satan "is not a living being but is a symbol of evil," the survey found.

Forty percent strongly agreed with the statement while 19 percent of American Christians somewhat agreed.

In contrast, about 35 percent of American Christians believe Satan is real. Twenty-six percent strongly disagreed with the statement that Satan is merely symbolic and about one-tenth (9 percent) somewhat disagreed.

The remaining eight percent of American Christians responded they were unsure what to believe about the existence of Satan.

Interestingly, the majority of Christians believe a person can be under the influence of spiritual forces, such as demons or evil spirits, even though many of these same people believe Satan is merely a symbol of evil. Two out of three Christians agreed that such forces are real (39 percent agreed strongly, 25 percent agreed somewhat).

At the same time people like to blame the devil for what they do. In this week's Daily Bread, the example was given of a lady in the State of Washington who was charged with stealing more than \$73,000 from her church. When the detectives interrogated her, she told them, "Satan had a big part in the theft." She was really saying that the devil made me do it.

Somewhere along the line, biblical churches are not teaching biblical doctrine, which is the basis of the biblical Christian's faith.

But as someone has said that is one of Satan's desires to get individuals to think that he is not real. Of course, Adam and Eve soon discovered that Satan was real and he tempted them to disobey the Lord. Later Christ knew that Satan was real for He was tempted by him, but as the second Adam, He was victorious over the three temptations of Satan.

II. Satan is a created being (Ezekiel 28:13-15).

Note what the text says in Ezekiel 28:13 & 15.

"On the day that you were created." "From the day you were created . . ."

1. As a created being, Satan is not God.

This is very important to know and remember. The eternal biblical God is the One who created Satan. In fact, Jesus Christ the Son of God, the God-man created Satan. Colossians 1:16 tell us that Christ created "all things both in the heavens and the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created through Him and for Him."

That means Satan is not God. That means that Satan is not all powerful, all knowing, and all present. Although powerful, Satan is limited in his power, knowledge, and ability. That became very apparent in the temptation of Christ by Satan. To think that Satan the created one was seeking to tempt his CREATOR. That is how proud and brazen Satan is.

That's why Satan has to depend on his network of demons, his false angels to accomplish his tasks, and then to report back to him so he knows what is happening on planet earth.

2. As a created being, Satan was a cherub (Ezekiel 28:14).

Ezekiel 28:14 tells us that when Satan was created by the eternal God, he was a cherub. A cherub is an angel who guards the holiness of God. The text tells us that Satan was an anointed cherub, given special approval by God.

In fact the Scripture tells us that there are the cherubim and the seraphim in describing the angels that God has created.

The cherubim guard the holiness of God. They were placed at the entrance to the garden of Eden after Adam and Eve sinned and were sent out of the garden of Eden. There were two gold cherubim at either end of the mercy seat. The cherubim are the four living beings (angels) described in Ezekiel 1 and 10 – which appeared to Ezekiel. Their presence said that God’s holiness was still in tack regardless of the lack of holiness in God’s people Israel.

The seraphim, on the other hand, are referred to in Isaiah 6:2 & 6. In the vision that God gave Isaiah a vision of Himself in the temple, Isaiah saw the seraphim standing above the LORD. The seraphim did an antiphonal response, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.” Seeing the holiness of God displayed, Isaiah acknowledged that he was a man of unclean lips and lived among a people of unclean lips, he had seen the King, the LORDS of hosts.”

Then one of the seraphim came to Isaiah with a burning coal in a tong and touched Isaiah’s mouth. The coal did not burn or hurt Isaiah, but it cleansed him of his sin, and healed him spiritually. Now Isaiah was ready to respond to the Lord’s call, “Here am I, send me.”

The seraphim are God’s special angels to bring spiritual cleansing and healing to His people.

The cherubim, on the other hand, guard the holiness of God.

3. As a cherub, Satan had an amazing task.

As the anointed of God, Satan had a special place in guarding the holiness of God, meaning he had direct access to the very throne of God in all His glory. He could have possibly been the head angel in this regard. Think about that, Lucifer, the star of the morning (bright one, could be translated Lucifer – Isaiah 14:12). knew what the dazzling holiness of God was all about. He knew, then the workings of God. He knew about the organization that God had for His angels and their specific tasks. He saw God in action.

4. As a cherub, Satan was blameless in his character. (Ezekiel 28:15).

Note Ezekiel 28:15.

“You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created.”

Blameless means that no offense could be brought against him.

Ezekiel 28:12 says that “You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect beauty.” Evidently his dress or robe was of beautiful stones (28:13).

Satan, then, did everything perfectly in guarding the holiness of his Creator.

THE QUESTION THAT COMES HERE IS THIS.

“When was Satan created?”

We are not really told. I receive a weekly email from Answers In Genesis, and a recent article was on Satan. The writer made the observation that God probably created Satan, and the angels, somewhere toward the beginning of creation week. For our passage in Ezekiel 28:13 tells us that Satan was in the garden of EDEN. What God created in those six days, He pronounced good, for all that God created was perfect. Satan was a perfect being, who had access as we mentioned to the very throne room of the Almighty God.

Another idea is that the angels had been created before God created the heavens and earth and all that is therein. We are not really told when the angels were created.

Yes, Satan is a real personality.

Satan is a created being.

III. Satan was ejected from heaven by God because He wanted to be “God.” (Ezekiel 28:17).

1. Ezekiel 28:17 reads, “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground. . .”

Ezekiel 28:12 told us that Satan had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Satan was not created before his fall in a state that could not change. He could make a choice to either obey God or not to obey God. The other angels could do the same.

It seems to me that as Satan begin to realize the position he had been given by God, and then he saw the world God had created with Adam and Eve being created in God's image, he may have begun to think, "Why do I serve God? I will be "God." I will run the world, and God will serve me!!" That's what the temptation of Christ by Satan was all about. Satan, the created, wanted to be the CREATOR.

2. Isaiah 14:13-15 comes into the picture here as well.

The passage in Isaiah is also a double reference section of Scripture as the King of Babylon is referred to first, and then it refers to the "star of the morning, or Lucifer himself."

There are five "I wills" in this passage in Isaiah as Satan desires to be God and take over His authority.

Satan's pride led him to think that, as the created one, he could be "God" and run the world. He could be the Creator.

There can be no pride in heaven – no sin in heaven. Pride always goes before a fall.

There can be no disobedience to God's Person and Word. Satan had to go. He was ejected from heaven, and it appears from Revelation 12 that a host of angels followed him maintaining their loyalty to him. These are his helpers, his demons that are very active in the world today along with their master, Satan, the adversary and the Devil, the slanderer. From Ephesians 6:12, Satan and his cohorts are very organized, which organization he learned from his Creator God.

At the point of His disobedience to his Creator God, something happened to Satan's nature. It became filled with deceit, imitation, lust, immorality, idolatry, murder, death, sin of any kind, you name it. He and his demons took on a rebellious spirit that was totally out to bring down God and His Kingdom, and particularly the crown of His creation, ADAM and EVE, who were created in the image of their CREATOR GOD.

Ephesians 2:1-3 gives the commentary on what happened to Satan as the text describes the Ephesian believers before coming to know Christ as personal Savior.

"And you were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (referring to Satan) of the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience. Among, them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind . . ."

IV. Ejected from God's presence, Satan began his mission to oppose and destroy God's plan and purpose on earth for mankind. (Genesis 3).

1. Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve.

In that historical, accurate and true account in Genesis 3, Satan's intent in the garden of Eden was very clear – Cause Adam and Eve made in the Creator's image to follow him, the created, rather than their CREATOR.

His approach was filled with deception – You shall not surely die (as God told you), and then the imitation, you shall be as God knowing good and evil.

Yes, God is keeping something from you. You need to experience what He is keeping from you, and then you will be as "God."

2. Adam and Eve's disobedience to God.

Eve and Adam listened to the created one, rather than their CREATOR and disobeyed the Lord. Immediately something happened to them. Their creaturely holiness changed. Their perfect state before God changed.

Their disobedience to their CREATOR, their sin against God, brought into their lives the very nature that Satan had, a sinful nature that was filled with physical and spiritual death. A nature that would not seek after God, nor seek to do righteousness before God.

That disobedience not only changed the lives of ADAM and EVE but of the entire human race, for Adam and EVE represented the human race. For by one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned (Romans 5:12).

Now Adam and Eve were no longer in God's kingdom but in the kingdom of Satan. They hid from God for now they were guilty before God, feeling shame, knowing they had disobeyed HIM.

3. God's rescue.

God came and found Adam and Eve, and questioned Adam about what had happened. The blame game started immediately, but finally God pronounced His judgments, but in so doing He made the promise of the Redeemer in Genesis 3:15 who would come and eventually defeat the created one who had cause those made in His image to sin against Him.

God also killed animals, shedding blood, showing that God's forgiveness had been granted, for without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Through the sacrifice of the animals, substitution was made for Adam and Eve's sin. God's forgiveness was granted. Satan's grasp on their lives had been broken.

All of this looked forward to the coming of the Savior WHO one day would provide eternal redemption for all who would trust Him as personal Savior. God used the skins from the animals to cover Adam and Eve. They could live no longer in the Garden of Eden (Delight). They must go from that perfect place. Sinners could no live there.

Now life would be entirely different for Adam and Eve. The Bible gives us the story from that time on.

4. Satan's Opposition.

But Satan had made his move to oppose the biblical God and has been developing his plan since then to somehow defeat the ONE who created him. He tried his best to snuff out the line of the Savior, but that failed. He corrupted the nation of Israel trying to get rid of God's people. That also failed. He continued to corrupt other nations. He tried to get Christ off His mission to go to the cross and become the Savior of all who would believe in Him. That also failed.

Yes, Satan has his kingdom today that opposes the Lord's kingdom, and he is still working through people in our government and other governments of the world. He works through those in theology, in economics, in education, influencing issues like marriage and family, and other issues of our day, while deceiving individuals in various and sundry ways.

Satan can not become incarnate like the Lord did. So he has to work through people and their ideas. He produces an anti-Christ spirit wherever he can. Sometimes it's very pronounced, other times its more subtle – he transforms himself into an angel of light causing people to think what they are believing is right for them. Satan is the great imitator, making God's true glory look real when it is not.

One day at the beginning of the tribulation period, Satan will take possession of the person called the Antichrist, the beast in Revelation, deceive the world and set up his world-wide kingdom. At the middle of the tribulation period, the Antichrist will set himself up as "god" in Jerusalem and be worshipped. Eventually, he will be defeated by Christ at the end of the tribulation time when Christ comes. He will eventually be cast into the Lake of Fire. Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire as well (Revelation 20:10).

V. In the midst of Satan's opposition to Christ and His kingdom exists the victorious Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

1. Christ in his life defeated Satan – He didn't yield to His temptations (Matthew 4). Christ used the Word of God to defeat the evil one.

2. Christ, in the garden of Gethsemane defeated the devil, as he prayed three times that the cup of death could be taken from Him.
3. Jesus submitted to His Father's will, went to the cross, was made our substitute for our sin, but in dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Christ paid the penalty for our sin which is death, but also defeated Satan the father of death, and the old nature we have received from Satan, in addition to the world system that is opposed to the Lord.

Hebrews 2:14 tells us that "Through death He (Christ) might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil.

Colossians 2:14 tells us as well that Christ disarmed the rulers and authorities, and made a public display of them, having triumphed over them . . .

But it all happened because Jesus Christ was the second Adam, the God-man, who was totally obedient to His Heavenly Father and won God's eternal forgiveness and life for us while defeating the very father of death, Satan Himself. The Creator defeated the created. The seed of the woman struck a death blow to the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15). If Jesus Christ had not done that there would be no eternal victory over the evil one and all of his cohorts or demons.

VI. Through faith in Christ, the believer can have victory over Satan.

1. It begins with accepting Christ as personal Savior.

That's what Hebrews 2:15 goes on to say that Christ through His death on the cross and bodily resurrection would free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Paul give thanks for the Colossians faith in the Lord at the beginning of chapter 1, and then later he tells the believers that they God rescued them from the domain of darkness and transferred them to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in who we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:4, 13-14).

It's difficult to believe sometimes, but those outside of Christ are in the kingdom of darkness, the kingdom of Satan. They need to come into the kingdom of God's dear Son, the kingdom of Jesus Christ, which today is His church. Acknowledging that one is a sinner before God, and realizing Christ has died to pay the penalty for one's sin which is death, and has conquered the grave to provide him or her His forgiveness and eternal life, a person can then ask Christ into his or her life to be one's Savior.

On that moment of accepting Christ as Savior the believer is taken from the kingdom of Satan and transferred into the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ.

2.As a believer in Jesus Christ, the individual can have victory over Satan by putting on Jesus Christ and using His word through depending on the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Let me diagram how this can be seen a little more clearly.

Satan's Kingdom (Unbeliever)

- 1. Spiritual Father is Satan (John 8:44)**
- 2. Has the nature of Satan (John 8:44)**
 - Pride – deceit, imitation
 - Lust,
 - Be religious (II Corinthians 11:13-14)
 - Thinks good works saves. May act like God. Thinks good works save (Galatians 2:16)

- 3. Can't be genuinely Christ-like.**
Romans 8:7 – The mind set on the flesh

Christ's Kingdom (Believer in Jesus Christ)

- 1. Spiritual Father is God (Ephesians 3:14-15).**
- 2. Has God's nature (II Peter 1:4).**
 - Has Christ's mind, emotion and will.
 - Humility, no deceit, genuine & real.
 - Submits to the Father (Philippians 2:5-11).
 - Can be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18ff).
 - Can have daily fellowship with His Lord (I John 1:7).
 - Knows his identity is being in Christ (Colossians 1:27).
 - Motivated by Christ's love (Romans 5:5)
 - Forgives as Christ has forgiven him (Ephesians 4:32).
- 3. Can be truly Christ-like. For me to live is Christ**
(Philippians 1:21; Galatians 5:22-23). Having

is hostile toward God, for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so.

the mind of Christ, the believer can think Christ's thoughts, having the emotion of Christ the believer can love like Christ, having the will of Christ, the believer can obey God in all things.

4. End is the Lake of Fire forever

Revelation 20:7

4. End is the presence of God forever

(I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The question to each of us is this, "In whose kingdom are you, am I?"

Since Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden, no one has had a choice as to where they would be. David said in Psalm 51:5, meaning that David realized he was a sinner at conception and at birth. That's why all have sinned and have come short of the glory of God. We are by nature part of Satan's kingdom, under God's condemnation—that's why Ephesians 2:3 says that we were children of wrath, under God's judgment.

So today we see expression of the old nature as described by Christ and Paul as being full of immorality, deceit, imitation, lust, the break down of the institution of the marriage, and corruption in our government. There is also the sirens of the world seeking to lure us to think that money, power, and possessions is where its at, so we are to live for today and not worry about tomorrow. Then there is Satan who brings his subtle and devious ways to influence people to accomplish his purposes to somehow thwart the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

There is an antichrist spirit in our land like never before and it is a controlling spirit that desires to control individuals and not let them have the freedoms that God has given them.

Through faith in Christ, the believer is transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ. One can put the cross over the diagram above.

The believer is no longer under God's condemnation, but is justified, declared righteous before God, and he can live for Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in Him.

By using the Word of God, the believer can have victory over the evil one like Jesus Christ did.

The believer needs to be wise and not let the old nature rear its ugly head of pride, jealousy, and deceit, which Satan likes to use for his purposes to glorify himself.

The key to keep from yielding to Satan's temptations is to keep submitting to God as revealed in His Word.

Christ did all things that pleased His heavenly Father. He didn't retaliate when treated falsely. He submitted to His Father and won eternal redemption for us.

Satan loves to get us feeling sorry for ourselves when the going gets tough. He loves to get us to experience false guilt and blame ourselves for our challenges. Satan loves to get us to think that God doesn't love us when we don't obey Him.

Certainly, we need to confess our sin to the Lord when we obey Him.

There are at least three things we need to do when Satan tempts us.

1. As believers in Christ, we need to realize who we belong to - we belong to God.

We are His possession – We are bought with the precious blood of Jesus, and we are sanctified, set apart to Him, to be holy in all of our behavior. Thusly we can obey the Lord in the Holy Spirit's power (I Corinthians 6:19; I Corinthians 1:2; I Peter 2:9; I Thessalonians 4:3).

2. As believers in Christ, we need to realize with whom we are identified (II Corinthians 5:17).

If any one is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. Christ also lives spiritually in the believer, for Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Believers don't get their identity from money, from possessions, from power, from friends, from relationships, from the roles one fulfills. Rather the believer gets his or her identity from being in Christ – We are in Christ regardless of ones status in life, education, or background. God sees us that way. We are one in Christ (Galatians 3:28). We are accepted in the beloved.

3. As believers in Christ, we need to realize WHO our authority is and use that authority to have victory for Christ in our lives for the glory of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Using God's authority in our lives, releases Christ's power within us to defeat the temptations of the evil one. That's why Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:1 to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, and then to put on the whole armor of God. If we were to make a study of the different pieces of armor, we would discover that the armor is really Christ.

That's why Paul told the Romans and tells us today to "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the lusts of the flesh" (Romans 13:14).

Satan said (1) I will, (2) I will, (3) I will, (4) I will, (5) I will become God – pride. He lost the battle by rebelling against God his Creator.

It is said of Christ that (1) He emptied himself taking the limitations of humanity, (2) He took the form of a bond servant, (3) being made in the likeness of men and found in appearance as a man, (4) He humbled Himself, (5) and become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Christ won the battle by submitting to His heavenly Father, defeating Satan, the created one, and won eternal salvation for all who accept HIM as personal Savior.

Our authority over Satan is found in submitting to the authority of Christ in our lives through the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. But we need to use Christ's authority.

A true story is told by a Christian theologian. He related this story to his friend as they were sitting near the great boulevard of Mexico City, the Avenue Reforma. At that time, they were discussing the believer's authority over the evil one.

The theologian told of a group of young Mexican boy scouts who were trying to cross the Avenue Reforma during the rush-hour traffic. They made it half-way across the broad street and took refuge on the esplanade (the median) in the street's center. At the corner of the esplanade (median) there was a special pedestal where the traffic officer stood to direct traffic. The boys watched as the traffic officer would raise his right arm and all the powerful speeding automobiles would screech to a halt.

In Mexico City that pedestal is a place of authority, and all the motorists know it.

About this time a slight accident occurred nearby and the officer left his place to investigate. While the officer was arguing with the motorists, one of the boy scouts stepped up on the pedestal and raised his right hand. Instantly cars began to grind to a halt.

The motorists obviously recognized that the boy was standing in the place of authority and that all the power of the Mexican government backed up the one who stood upon the pedestal.

Suppose the boy had tried to physically stop one of the automobiles. That would have been setting his power against the car's power. Obviously the boy would have been the loser.

This is what happens when we try to deal with the devil in our own power. We lose the battle.

When we rely on Christ's delegated authority to us, and use it based upon the Word of God, we are victors and Satan will back off as he did when Christ used the Word of God during Satan's temptation. `

That's why when we resist the devil in Christ's authority, he flees, leaving us alone.

**Using Christ's authority in our lives, we have His victory and He is genuinely glorified in our lives.
All imitation glory is gone!**

May that we our experience this week to the glory of God.

Make me a captive Lord, and then I shall be free;
Force me to render up my sword, and I shall conqueror be.
I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand;
Imprison me within Thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.

My heart is weak and poor until it master find;
It has no spring of action sure, it varies with the wind.
It cannot freely move till Thou has wrought its chain;
Enslave it with Thy matchless love, and deathless it shall reign.

My will is not my own till Thou hast made it Thine;
If it would reach a monarch's throne, it must its crown resign;
It only stands unbent, amid the clashing strife,
When on Thy bosom it has lent and found in thee its life. **Amen.**