

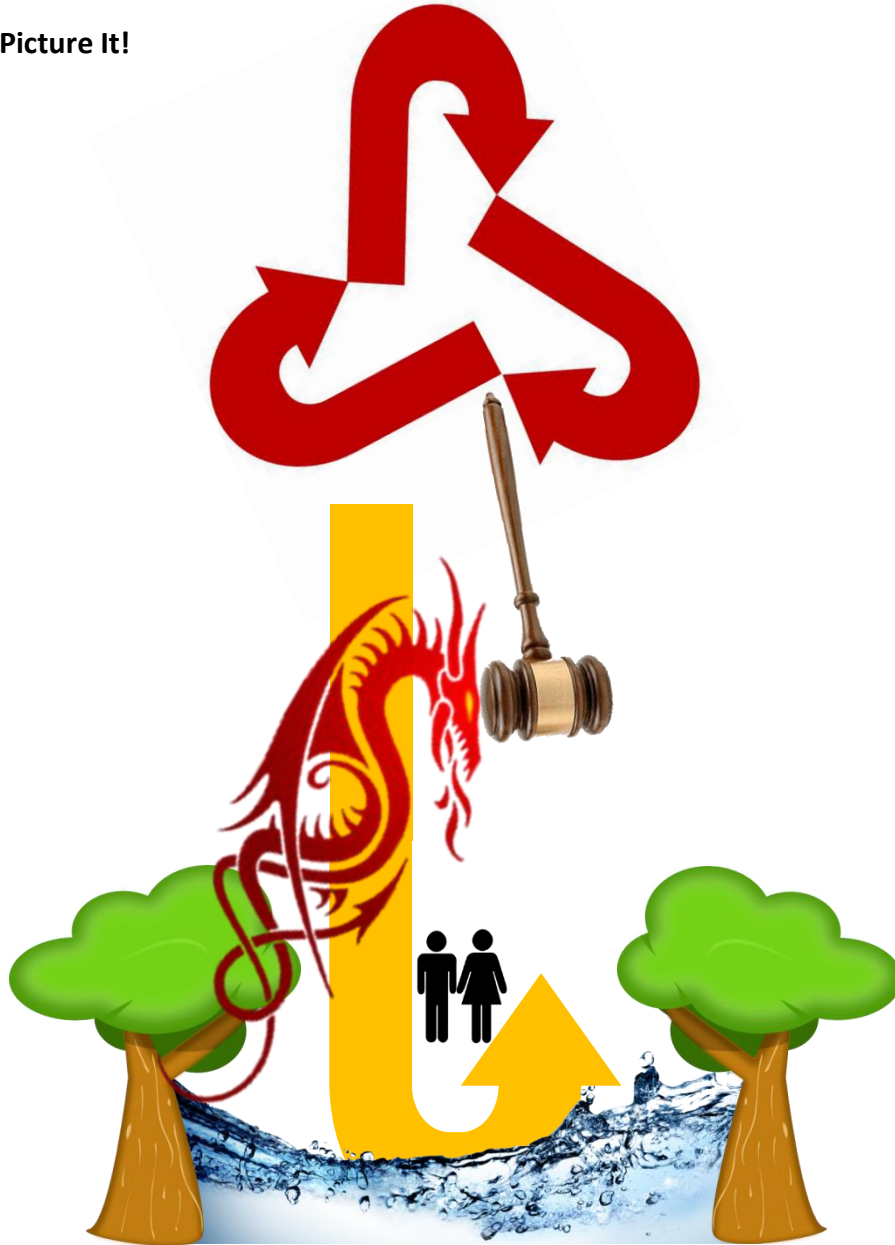
PICTURE THIS!

The Big Picture of Our Faith in Pictures!

*A study for all ages @ Gorrie Bible Fellowship!
September – December 2016*

Week #5 – Satan

Picture It!



Caption It!

Satan is a powerful spirit ruler who opposes God and His glory. He is not like God! He is a selfish destroyer who seeks to ruin what God has made, especially people who are made in God's image.

Save It!

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Picture It!

1. Satan is an Adversary.
 - a. The name 'Satan' comes from a Hebrew word that means 'adversary.' He opposes God and all that God has made. He is shown in the picture as a red dragon (Revelation 12:3) breathing fire against God's Creation and God's glory. His primary target is people who are made in the image of God. He wants to keep unbelievers from trusting Christ and He wants to keep believers from thriving in their faith.
 - b. The Bible also describes Satan as the serpent of old (Revelation 12:9), a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44) and a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8).

2. Satan is a Deceiver.
 - a. Satan's primary attack is deception. Just as he tricked Adam and Eve into disobeying God, he seeks to destroy people's lives through deception as well. Jesus called him the 'Father of Lies', explaining that lying is Satan's native language! (John 8:44).
 - b. As he did with Adam and Eve, and later with Jesus, Satan seeks to distort the truth of God's Word (Matthew 4:1-11).
 - c. Satan seeks to deceive unbelievers by blinding their minds to the truth of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4).
 - d. Notice in the picture that the dragon is red, just like the Trinity symbol is red. This reminds us that Satan can deceive people through counterfeit. He can transform himself into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

3. Satan is an Accuser
 - a. Another name given to Satan is the 'devil' which means 'accuser' or 'slanderer.'
 - b. In Revelation 12:10 he is called "the accuser of our brothers... who accuses them day and night before our God." This is pictured in Zechariah 3:1-4.
 - c. Satan loves to paralyze God's people, first by tempting us into sin, and then by rubbing our faces in our failure.

4. Satan is the Tempter
 - a. Just as Satan tempted Adam and Eve, he continues to tempt believers and unbelievers to doubt and disobey God.
 - b. Satan cannot force anyone to sin, but can lure and entice a person with their own sinful desires (James 1:14, 1 Cor. 7:5).

5. Satan is at Work
 - a. The picture shows Satan hovering above Creation. Scripture calls Satan “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31) and “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2). This does not mean that he is the true king of the world, but that he is in control of the sinful cultures of the world and has power to influence unbelievers (Ephesians 2:1-3).
 - b. Satan loves to tempt and trick believers into a bitter spirit of unforgiveness which gives him a foothold in their lives (Ephesians 4:26-27).
 - c. Satan loves to cause division among God’s people (2 Corinthians 2:10-11).
 - d. Believers are in a spiritual battle against Satan in which we must equip ourselves with the truth of the Gospel to defeat him (Ephesians 6:10-18).
 - e. Satan knows his time is short and is seeking to destroy all that he can before God ultimately destroys Him (Revelation 12:12).

6. Satan is Defeated
 - a. Through his life, death and resurrection Jesus has defeated Satan (Hebrews 2:14, 1 John 3:8). This is represented in the picture by the gavel hanging over Satan’s head.
 - b. At the cross Satan’s power to accuse believers was destroyed and he was cast out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-12).
 - c. One day God will crush Satan under the feet of believers (Romans 16:19).
 - d. God has complete power over Satan and one day will cast him into the Lake of Fire for all eternity (Revelation 20:7-10). Satan is not the ruler of Hell. Hell was created to punish Satan and his demons (Matthew 25:41).

Panorama!

While we do not know why God created Satan knowing what he would become, we do know that from the beginning of Creation, Satan has opposed God and anything that glorifies God. His primary attacks have always been against people, who have been made in God's glorious image, and most particularly the people of God who love Him and represent Him in the world. While Satan has caused devastation in humanity through His deception, he is a defeated foe who cannot thwart the plan and the purposes of God and will ultimately face eternal punishment. Through Christ, the people of God can victoriously overcome the works of the Devil.

Selfie!

Satan hates us because we are not only made in the image of God, but we are being fully remade into the image of God and of Christ. We have been invited into 'the dance' of God's being and we live for His Kingdom and His glory. Satan seeks to paralyze us and make us ineffective in our life of faith, but through obedience and faith in God and His truth, we can overcome the works of the Devil!

Instagram!

The reality of Satan helps to make sense of the depth of evil that humanity is capable of in cultures all over the world. Although it is very difficult to explain why God would have created and allowed a being like Satan to be at work in the world, the reality is Satan can only function through people who believe his lies and prefer his ways. We can show that the Gospel calls people into a selfless 'dance' in which sin and Satan have been defeated through the sacrificial death of Jesus.

Key Story!

Satan seeks to tempt Jesus in the Wilderness – Matthew 4:1-11

- After Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting, Satan tempted Him to turn away from 'the dance' of selfless sacrifice and seek immediate gratification.
- Satan twisted Scripture, hoping to deceive and tempt Jesus, but Jesus overcame him by holding fast to the truth of God's Word.
- Unlike all humans before Him, Jesus was victorious over Satan's temptation and continued on His glorious and sacrificial path to the cross.

Key Questions:

1. Why is Satan represented in the picture by a red dragon?
2. What is Satan attempting to do to all that God has made? Why?
3. Why does Satan focus his attack against human beings?
4. What does the judge's gavel represent in the picture?
5. How is Satan the opposite of what God is like?
6. Where did Satan come from? If God is in control of Satan, why has He allowed Satan to work in this world?
7. What part do people play in the destruction that Satan causes in humanity?
8. What is Satan's primary weapon (his native language!)? What does this teach us about our primary weapon against him?
9. What is Satan's goal for a follower of Jesus? What would be some of the signs that we have fallen into his trap?
10. How does unforgiveness give Satan a foothold in our lives? (Ephesians 4:26-27).