



Jesus
Atonement
Salvation

Jesus, Atonement & Salvation Part 3

Hi guys!

Welcome to the new series and companion for the podcast!

Let's remind ourselves of the 4 things we're looking at throughout the next few weeks, which are:

- How Jesus saved us
- What Jesus saved us *from*
- What Jesus saved us *for*
- Why Jesus saved us

In last week's episode we surveyed the Biblical data on how Jesus saved us, in which we covered the basic idea of the wages of sin, how Jesus' death and resurrection is the single way to a reconciled relationship with God, and how Jesus' atonement for our sins is perfectly in keeping with God's attributes.

In today's session we're looking at what Jesus saved us *from*.

Saved
From

You might recall in our first episode of this series, I stated that Jesus saved us from Satan, sin & death.

What does this mean? Satan, sin & death? Let's review them.

Obviously in the last session we discussed sin and death quite extensively, so we'll just recap there. Let's focus our time on Satan.

Satan

What do you think of when I say 'Satan'?

There's been a lot of different names for Satan – the Devil, Beelzebub, the Serpent, the Enemy, the Liar, the Great Deceiver, the God of this World, the Thief, Lucifer, and on the list goes.

Potentially you think about the medieval paintings of the Devil as this capering, horned, goat-legged little red imp that runs Hell, working with God to punish those who God sends down there.



AKA this dude, pictured here chin-waggin' it large with Jesus: *Detail of a miniature of the First Temptation of Christ: from a Psalter, England (Oxford), c. 1200–1225, Arundel MS 157, f. 5v*
Found [here](#) for credit.

You might even think of Satan as this incredible power, with a horde of demons, who does battle with God in this back-and-forth war trying to win this world.

You may even think the belief in Satan is out-dated, that Satan doesn't exist.

Whatever your opinion of Satan is, it's important to frame him as he really is so we know what to believe as Christians.

Firstly, let me say one thing – the idea that Satan doesn't exist, that demons don't exist, that there is no such thing as spiritual warfare, is a risky opinion to hold, in my opinion.

Baudelaire once said *"The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist"* and I think I agree!

The Bible has an awful lot to say on Satan and his influence, so we should be wary in dismissing him as irrelevant or just an anthropomorphic entity symbolising evil. Here's a few times the Bible speaks on the devil:

- 1 Peter 5:8, which we've looked at before, says *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*
- 1 John 3:8 says *"Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."*
- In John 8:44 Jesus says *"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*
- In John 10:10 again Jesus says *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*
- Ephesians 6:11 says *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."*
- In Luke 10:18 again Jesus says *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."*
- Revelation 20:10 says *"And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."*

That's quite a list! So, when we consider the position the Bible, including Jesus' own words, should have in our lives, I think it's unnecessarily dangerous to simply disregard the idea of Satan.

Additionally, when we take these into consideration alongside some other parts of the Bible we get a slightly more fleshed-out idea of what people mean when they say spiritual warfare. For example, Ephesians 6:12 says *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places"*, which is explicitly saying that there is a battle that is being waged in the spiritual realm we can't see. We also have the story of Legion in the Bible (Matthew 8:28-34), where several demons possess a man. Now, I'm not going to do a session on demons and spiritual warfare, I've said we'd do that in our Bible studies in future, all I'm putting across is the fact that we can't easily, and perhaps shouldn't try to, disregard the idea of Satan and demons.

I know it's challenging, but engaging in this topic can be beneficial! I would suggest getting yourself into this topic if you want to learn more, with some resources like these:

Firstly, you might try this entire lecture series by Mark Driscoll:



Or this interesting short podcast by a great resource site called Crossway:



With that said, what exactly is the Devil?

Let's bust some ideas people often have.

First of all, the devil is not God's equal and opposite as many have believed in the past. The devil is one, created entity – an angel who led a rebellion against God in Heaven, as we're told in the Bible in Isaiah 14:12-15, Revelation 12:7-10, and Jesus alludes to in Luke 10:18. He is not all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, and all-evil. He's one being, with limited knowledge and power, and only present in one place at one time. When Christians say they're being attacked by the devil, they mean demons, because Satan can only be in one place at one time and, not to be harsh, but we're just not big-time enough for him to bother with.

He's also not the lord of Hell!

Revelation 20:10 which we mentioned earlier states that Hell was made for *the Devil's punishment*. As in, punishment of him, not punishment through him.

The medieval paintings of hell as this place of wailing, burning, rivers of sulfur and fire, were taken from this passage, I believe, and were just envisaged wrongly.

So, what should we do with this information on the devil?

Firstly – yes, the devil is the enemy, but he is a defeated enemy! Through Jesus, the war for this world was won and what we see now are just the rebellious skirmishes of a beaten force.

Secondly, there's reason to be aware of the devil – we already know he's like a roaring lion waiting to devour us, but the Bible also says in James 4:7 *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"* and Ephesians 4:27 says to *"give no opportunity to the devil"*.

Opportunity to what? To pull us away from the works of God, from the path set by Jesus.

The devil wants only to take you from a life with God, from eternal life and a salvatory belief in Jesus Christ.

If you resist the devil, and give no opportunity to the devil, then you are safe-guarding your heart and life from being subverted against God.

Sin & Death

As I said last week, we are all sinners through our own volition and free-will. The wages of sin are death.

When Jesus died on the cross, and was resurrected by the miraculous works of God three days later, He put an end to death and an end to sin's hold on us.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 says *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* because, through Christ, we have been justified and saved from both sin and death. We are no longer slaves to sin, we have the power of the Holy Spirit within us to help us resist the Devil, resist the flesh and resist the world, all of which seek to pull us away from God.

I think next week we will pick up our discussion on saved from and discuss Hell, then juxtapose it with a discussion on saved to when we discuss Heaven. Hopefully that sounds exciting!

If not, check this video of Ravi Zacharias out:



Let's review our scripture of the week:

This week, we're in Ephesians 6:10-18:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."

Why is that our scripture for the week?

I want you guys to look at each item in that list of the armour of God and consider what it is and how you can use it! I want us all to be equipped to live a life with and for Jesus! Whilst I want to do that with apologetics to be able to resist the world and its lies, I also want us to be able to do it in the spiritual realm as well.

Consider each item and how you can be sure you're wearing it.

So, our question of the week is this – which piece of the armour of God do you not currently wear or utilise? Find your weakness and try to plug that hole.

Hopefully this episode was super interesting for you! With a bit of luck that's stoked your flames into wanting to learn more about this aspect of our lives as Christians!

As always guys, don't be afraid to get into the youth whatsapp chat and let us know how you are, what you're up to and what you're thinking. Get your prayer requests ready for Thursday and get involved in our Bible study! And you can grab us on Instagram @chawnyouth.

Speak to you next week!