

Angels & Demons

Lesson 7: Satanism & Jesus' Victory

Review Lesson 6: What were two takeaways from our lesson on demon possession?

Introduction: Name some villains who are often regarded as “heroes” or praised. These villains can come from real life or from fiction.

Perpetual Note: Today, in our final lesson, we will take a peek into the occult and other things like that. We are looking at how Satan influences the world. How there are doors that are open to his influence. While we, as God's people, may already know the danger of these things, we don't want practice them even inadvertently. It is good to be aware that we may be alert and of sober mind as our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking to devour us.

1. Satanism in the past

- a. Satanism is nothing new. If you read through Numbers 22:1-21, you will read about how Balak, king of Moab, hire Balaam to curse the Israelites as they are wandering in the wilderness. He was known for his powers as he dabbled in satanic practices.
- b. Read Luke 4:5-7. The devil even had the audacity to tempt Jesus to Satanism. How did he do that?

2. What Kind of People Get Involved with Satanism?

- a. Modern satanism can divided into four following groups:

i. Dabblers or Experimentalists

1. These are usually young people (11-19) of middle- to upper- class families and have an above average intelligence. Their interest develops through music, movies, books, or games with occult themes. Many are in a transitional moment in life or have experienced a loss.

ii. Self-styled Satanist

1. Applied to those involved with criminal activity. “The devil made me do it!” Richard Ramirez, the “Night Stalker” in California during the 1980s would be an example of this. Held up his hand, on trial, to show a satanic symbol inscribed on his palm.

iii. Members of Public Satanic Churches

iv. Generational Satanists

1. Members of Public Satanic Churches and Generational Satanists are similar. Less visible than the other two groups. They have a more organized structure and often have a cult “royalty” which passes teachings from one generation to the next.

- b. Studies have revealed that many who turn to satanism are from troubled homes. When people do not find support and acceptance in a loving, Christian home, they often search for it elsewhere and are easy prey for the devil. The two most famous and influential satanists of our time are Aleister Crowley and Anton LaVey.

3. Satanism today (in some respects)

- a. Anton LaVey was arguably the main person in modern Satanism in America. He is often called the “black pope”. He wrote *The Satanic Bible*. He witnessed lots of gruesome and hypocritical attitudes in people in both his circus days and as a photographer for the SFPD. He states in the *Satanic Bible*, “I knew then that the Christian church thrives on hypocrisy, and that man’s carnal nature will win out.”
 - i. In what ways is he right? In what ways is he wrong?
- b. He formed the church of Satan in 1966. Many of the satanic rituals and rites are mockeries of Christian rituals and rites. He was able to have great footholds among celebrities and had “grottos” in most major American cities. However, there were significant problems and power struggles among the church. (No surprise as Satan ravages even his own church with divisiveness and sinfulness).
- c. The Legacy of LaVey is *The Satanic Bible*. He wrote Nine Satanic Statements. These statements are a parody of the 10 commandments (in a way), a mockery of Scripture, and reveal what satanists believe.
 - i. *Satan represents indulgence instead of abstinence.*
 - ii. *Satan represents vital existence instead of spiritual pipe dreams.*
 - iii. *Satan represents undefiled wisdom instead of hypocritical self-deceit.*
 - iv. *Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it instead of love wasted on ingrates.*
 - v. *Satan represents vengeance instead of turning the other cheek.*
 - vi. *Satan represents responsibility to the responsible instead of concern for psychic vampires.*
 - vii. *Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all fours, who because of his “divine spiritual and intellectual development” has become the most vicious animal of all.*
 - viii. *Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification.*
 - ix. *Satan has been the best friend the church has ever had, as he has kept it in business all these years.*
- d. Which statement surprises you the most? How would describe satanism according to the nine statements? What great lie(s) has the devil ensnared people with in these statements?

- e. Read Jude 13 and apply it to a person like Anton LaVey.

4. **Jesus' Victory, Our Victory, Our Hope**

- a. When did God declare war on the devil?

- b. Read John 18:10-11. Usually enemies will approach each other from a position of power. How did Jesus enter the battle for our salvation?

- c. John 19:30, "Jesus said, "It is finished."" In these final words, Jesus doesn't say, "I am finished." He rather announces, "It is finished." What did he mean by this?

- d. CATECHISM REVIEW: Another comfort comes from 1 Peter 3:19 and Colossians 2:15. Read those two passages. Why did Jesus descend into hell? How does this prove that he won the war against Satan?

- e. The devil continues to attack God's church. We are also called to go preach the good news to those who are in the jaws of the devil, of sin, of death. Read the two passages below and comment on the comforting and confidence-giving truths that God gives to us:
 - i. Matthew 16:18

 - ii. Ephesians 6:11-17

- 5. List ways that you can remind yourself every day that you are completely safe in the tender and powerful protection of your Savior.

- 6. What comfort do you find in 1 John 3:8b "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."?

7. **Write down 2 takeaways from this bible study series.**