

RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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The Demons in Hell

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The demons are not going to have a good time in Hell. They will be enraged at having lost. They will tear themselves apart in their utmost possible rage, never ending, because they could not defeat God. When Jesus allowed himself to be crucified, killed, Satan was absolutely sure that Jesus could not escape that impenetrable trap, death. Had he, Satan, in any way considered that Jesus would come back from the dead, he would not have instigated the crucifixion. He would have tried to prevent the death of Jesus. Certainly, it was not in his interest to have the availability of a complete payment for sin for anyone who wanted it. But he entered Judas to betray Jesus, leading a party of his enemies to where Jesus abode. Jesus was not surprised, he was expecting all this, he knew he was the Lamb of the Passover, and the Passover was at hand. But just to show them they were not dealing with a simple human being, when the party of officers from the chief priests and Pharisees showed up he said to them “Are you looking for me?,” the whole group went backward, and fell to the ground. Nobody was going to take him if he did not allow himself to be taken. He went as the lamb that offered no resistance. He surrendered all his power for us.

When Jesus broke through the gates of Hell, it must have been unbelievable to Satan, he had counted on his ultimate ability to destroy God’s creation. Satan made a bet that Jesus, God, would not be able to escape the trap of death. Satan made a bet that he was stronger than God. Well, we know the result. Jesus came back from the dead. He walked into the trap, into the absolute impossibility of escape. But he walked out, with a host of prisoners in tow. There would be, for sure, a remnant saved, despite all Satan’s hate.

Satan was so sure! He said, I’m gonna do this and I’m gonna do that, I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will be like the most High. Well, he never got to put a couple of two-by-fours together for his throne, before he got kicked out. What a disappointment. But, he probably thought he still had a chance, a chance to destroy God’s creation, at least. Can’t say he didn’t try. However, since the resurrection of Christ, Satan knows for sure he will not win, that is, he will not be able to completely destroy what God has created. Sure, God will sustain some losses, heavy losses, but he will rescue a remnant, he is buying back a remnant, not everything will be lost. That’s why Satan is going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He’s going to take down as many as he can with him. He has lost, so, there is nothing else for him to lose. His only gain, vain as it is, is to inflict pain on God by taking people away from the Gospel, and taking them to Hell with him. The souls that will go to Hell will have a big committee of enraged demons waiting for them.

Jesus said, my sheep will hear my voice and follow me. They will hear, they

will understand the good news that Christ has paid for our sins forever and ever. As long as we claim the blood of Christ as the payment for our sins, we will not go to Hell after we die.

A clear postulation of the Gospel is that of a fork in the road, and as Yogi Berra would put it, “when you come to a fork in the road, take it.” Here is a moment of decision, a moment of choice, something that appears to be under the jurisdiction of free will. This is the fork in the road: Here are two guys, each of whom has a gun pointed at my head. One says: I am going to pull the trigger and the gun is loaded. The other one says: I am going to pull the trigger, but don’t worry, the gun is not loaded. Whom should I believe? Should I believe the guy who says the gun is not loaded? What if he is lying? Or should I believe, instead, the guy who says the gun is loaded? It seems to me that I have to believe the guy who tells me the gun is loaded, I cannot fully trust the guy who tells me the gun is not loaded. What if they are both lying? Well, assuming they are both lying, if the guy who tells me the gun *is* loaded is lying, when he pulls the trigger, nothing will happen and I will live. But if I believe the guy who tells me the gun *is not* loaded and he is lying, when he pulls the trigger, a bullet will come out and I will die. So, then, who should I believe? It has to be a belief based on the risk factor. It has to be like, I have to, I can’t take a chance, unequivocally so, no doubt about it, it cannot be any other way, kind of belief. It is not a soft belief. It has to be a final conclusion. Those being the parameters, I have to believe the guy who tells me the gun is loaded and that, when he pulls the trigger, a bullet will come out and I will die. The God of the Bible is the one who tells me the gun is loaded. Satan, on the other hand, says the gun is not loaded. God says the soul that sinneth, it shall die. Satan says, thou shall not surely die. Out of precaution only, I would have to believe God. I see death all around me, usually people a bit older than I, but not always. They go and don’t come back. There is only a palpable silence coming from them. We want to talk to them but they are not there anymore. Salvation always refers to being saved from eternal damnation. But it also refers to going to Heaven and having eternal life, and never again seeing this horrible death lurking about.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. It is crucial to be afraid of God. My Bible says that it is a fearful thing to fall in the hands of an angry God. Knowing what I know about God, I have no problem fearing him. But as David would say it, don’t forget all his benefits. God will make a fence around those who fear him. God sends his angels to camp round about those who fear him. The protection of God is a cleft in the rock, a mother hen taking the chicks under her wings, fluttering about, gathering, accommodating. In times of trouble, his covenant of love is that he will help us and bring us through.