

## HOW TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM SATAN'S SNARES

### *Note to the speaker:*

Help the audience to see the reality of Satan the Devil and his schemes, which should not be taken lightly. Highlight the practical ways in which we can protect ourselves and the rewards for doing so

### **SATAN REAL PERSON, NOT JUST EVIL PRINCIPLE** (4 min.)

Popular belief: Satan not a real person (*w92 12/1 32*)

A snare of Satan to keep control of mankind

Actually, whole world under his control (*1Jo 5:19*)

Bible a source of reliable information regarding Satan

Account of Job 1, 2 shows Satan a real person

Temptation of Jesus also proves Devil is real (*Mt 4:1-11; w88 9/1 13-14*)

### **SATAN'S MOTIVE AND PURPOSES** (6 min.)

Created perfect, but let ambition take over (*Jas 1:14, 15*)

Determined to prove self superior to Jehovah by turning God's intelligent creatures away from Him (*dg 13-14*)

Challenged rightfulness of God's sovereignty (*Ge 3:1-5*)

Motivated by pride (*1Ti 3:6*)

His challenge poses test to all intelligent creatures as to loyalty to Jehovah (*Job 1:9-11; 2:4, 5*)

Why we should be watchful regarding Satan

So that he does not destroy us (*1Pe 5:8*)

To uphold Jehovah's sovereignty, make his heart glad (*Pr 27:11*)

Our vigilance brings reward of everlasting life

### **SNARES THAT SATAN USES** (10 min.)

In these critical last days, Satan misleads many through love of pleasure (*2Ti 3:1, 4*)

Desire of the eyes, desire of the flesh (*1Jo 2:16; w86 5/1 11-12*)

Debased popular music, demoralizing TV and movies

Arouses nationalistic, even religious, fervor in spectator sports

Appeals to pride; caused Eve's downfall (*Ge 3:5, 6*)

Cain, Nimrod victims of pride (*Ge 4:3-8; 10:8, 9*)

Pride of race one of Satan's snares (*g84 11/8 4-5*)

"Man of lawlessness" succumbed to pride (*2Th 2:3, 4*)

Uses power of sexual attraction

Seduced angels (*Ge 6:2; Jude 6*)

Israelites also seduced by women of Moab (*Nu 25:1*)

World's news media, soap operas serve Satan's purpose

Of those disfellowshipped each year, great majority because of sexual immorality

Tobacco, drug addiction are unclean snares (*2Co 7:1*)

False religion also snare of Satan (*1Co 10:20*)

Occultism and curiosity about it another snare (*Isa 8:19, 20*)

Apostates also used by Satan

They capitalize on minor matters and personal grievances (*Mt 24:48-51*)

Fear of man another of Satan's snares (*Pr 29:25*)

### **HOW TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM SATAN'S SNARES** (20 min.)

Recognize need for protection from Deceiver (*2Co 11:3*)

To protect means to cover, shield, safeguard against harm

Resist Satan at all times (*Jas 4:7*)

Issues raised by Devil must constantly be kept in mind (*rs 363-4*)

Bad things should be abhorred, no matter how pleasurable they may seem to be (*Ps 97:10; 1Co 14:20*)

Jesus set example (*Heb 1:9*)

Spiritual armor must always be worn (*Eph 6:11-18; w92 5/15 21-3*)

*Loins girded about with truth*

Keeping mind occupied with God's truth will help us to resolve questions, will protect us

*Breastplate of righteousness*

Must safeguard heart, have pure motives (*Pr 4:23*)

Jesus warned against our heart's becoming weighed down so that we do not put Kingdom interests first (Lu 21:34, 35)

*Feet shod with good news of peace*

Be patient, tactful in field ministry to overcome opposition Satan stirs up (Lu 10:5, 6)

*Large shield of faith*

Develop this protective armor by Bible study and meditation, association with fellow worshipers

Ridicule, slander, bitter words, sarcasm, falsehood are all quenched by this large shield

Enliven own faith by helping others (Jas 2:26)

*Helmet of salvation*

Hope of salvation is like protective headgear (1Th 5:8)

Strengthen this hope by telling others about it

*Sword of the spirit*

Need to become better acquainted with Bible to expose Satan's crafty acts, false teachings; must use it deftly

Prayer also an aid in protecting selves from Satan's snares

Should include petition, supplication, thanksgiving, praise (Php 4:6, 7)

Fruitage of spirit is strong defense against Satan and works of flesh (Read Galatians 5:19-23)

Love for Jehovah and fellow believers allows no room for works of flesh (1Co 13:4-8)

Mildness mitigates anger, prevents strife (Pr 15:1)

Self-control helps prevent succumbing to works of flesh

Must pummel our body to keep it morally clean (1Co 9:27)

Feeding mind on good things leaves no room for bad thoughts (Php 4:8)

**REWARDS FOR PROTECTING OURSELVES FROM SATAN'S SNARES (5 min.)**

Good conscience because of right conduct (1Pe 3:16)

Joy of contributing to vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty

We provide God with an answer for his Taunter (Pr 27:11)

Keeping our integrity also encourages others to be faithful (Php 1:12-14)

Eternal life in new system of things another grand reward

Anointed Christians will rule as heavenly kings (Re 5:10)

"Great crowd" will survive Armageddon and share in making earth a paradise (Re 7:9-14)

Such rewards can be ours only if we keep up our guard and protect ourselves from Satan's snares (Mt 24:13)

(See also *w88* 9/1 13-18; *w84* 10/15 11-20; *rs* 361-6)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read)