



SATAN

The Enemy of God

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

THE ENEMY OF THE NEW KING

Scripture to be studied: Matthew 2:12-23; Luke 2:39-52

The aim of the lesson: To show that God is greater than Satan.

What your students should know: Because they do not always do right, they need to turn to God for help to overcome Satan.

What your students should feel: A desire to be obedient in all things as Jesus was.

What your students should do: Ask God to help them to be obedient.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Satan tries to kill God's Son (Matthew 2:12, 16-18).
2. God protects His Son (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).
3. Teachers are amazed at Jesus' wisdom (Luke 2:39-49).
4. Jesus obeyed God and his parents (Luke 2:50-52).

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

In our last volume, we learned of the coming of God to earth in the form of man. The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ—and all of the events connected with it—testify that He is indeed the Son of God.

In this volume, we learn how Satan, the enemy of God, does all that he can to get rid of the Lord Jesus. Satan has always opposed the will of God. He always will oppose the will of God. Ever since the awful day in eternities past when Satan said, "I will be like the Most High God" (Isaiah 14:14), he has sought to prove that he is superior to God. But the verse of Scripture that we are going to be memorizing during these lessons is true:

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

THE LESSON

You will remember that in our last lesson we learned that God had told the Wise Men (in a dream) that they were not to

return to Jerusalem. So they went home another way. But Herod the king was waiting for the Wise Men to come back to tell him where Christ had been born.

Because of this, all was not well in the palace. King Herod paced the floor. You can imagine how angry he was. "Where are they?" he doubtless shouted. "They should have been back long before this. I commanded those men from the East to come and tell me when they found the Child—that newborn king. How dare they disobey me?"

1. SATAN TRIES TO KILL GOD'S SON

Matthew 2:12, 16-18

When Herod learned that the Wise Men had returned to their own land without coming back through Jerusalem, he was furious. "They have tricked me! They have tricked me!" he roared.



Show Illustration #1

Quickly he wrote an order for his soldiers: "Go kill all the baby boys two years old and younger in and around Bethlehem."

Pushing the order into the hands of the captain, he shouted, "We shall see about this new King of the Jews. I shall get rid of Him. There will be no other king. I am the king—Herod the Great. No one will take my place."

Immediately the soldiers marched to Bethlehem. From house to house they went, destroying every baby boy who was two years old or less, exactly as Herod had commanded. Mothers sobbed and pleaded. Fathers wept. Children tried to hide. But the soldiers went to each house obeying the horrible command of wicked King Herod.

Herod was proud of his plan. But let me tell you something that Herod did not know. He was really carrying out the plan of a more powerful enemy of God. That enemy is Satan. Once Satan had been a beautiful angel guarding the presence of God.

But he had become proud and wanted to be greater than God. Since pride is sin, and sin must be punished, God punished Satan by taking away from him the high position that had been his. Ever since then Satan has tried to get men and women and boys and girls to obey him rather than God.

King Herod was pleased when he learned that his order had been obeyed. "Now all the baby boys in Bethlehem are dead!" he exclaimed. "The new king is dead."

2. GOD PROTECTS HIS SON

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

But God, who knows everything, had known of the plan of Herod. So, right after the Wise Men had visited Jesus, an angel from God had appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," the angel had whispered. "Take the Child and His mother and go to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to leave. Herod will be looking for the Child to kill Him."



Show Illustration #2

So while others slept, Joseph and Mary had packed quickly and left Bethlehem. Tenderly they protected the Son of God through the dark night. The message of the angel must have gone over and over in their minds: "Herod will be looking for the Child to kill Him." But they remembered also the other words of the angel: "Go to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to leave." *We will*

get to Egypt, they thought. God is greater than Satan. God is greater than Satan, the master of Herod. God will keep us safe.

And God did keep them safe as they hurried to Egypt. He was working out His plan, even though Satan was trying to destroy it.

(Teacher: Keep illustrations out of sight from now until it is time to show #3.)

Later, King Herod died. Then an angel spoke to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up. Take the Child and His mother and go back to the country of Israel. Those who tried to kill the Child are dead." Again Joseph obeyed God. With Mary and Jesus he went back to Nazareth, the village in which they lived before Jesus was born.

In Nazareth, Jesus grew as any boy does. But He was different in one way—He was *always* good. He never said a wrong word. He was always obedient. He was never mean or selfish. He never went to a wrong place. He never had one wrong thought!

Satan, the enemy of God, must have tried many times to make Jesus do wrong. But Jesus did not sin. (See Hebrews 4:15.) Never once did the Lord Jesus do one wrong thing. He was perfect always!

3. TEACHERS ARE AMAZED AT JESUS' WISDOM

Luke 2:39-49

By the time Jesus reached the age of twelve, He was strong and wise; and God, His Father, was well pleased with Him. Now He was old enough to go to the Passover Feast just as all other Jewish boys His age. Jesus had heard many things about the Passover, that wonderful and exciting feast in the Temple. Crowds of people went to Jerusalem from all parts of the land once every year for this feast.

Mary and Joseph packed for the journey. Then, together with many of their friends, they traveled to Jerusalem for the big event. We do not know how many days they took for the trip, but at last they saw Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine. And, most wonderful

of all, they saw the magnificent Temple, the House of God! If only the people who were there had known that He, Jesus, was the Son of God, they would have bowed down and worshiped Him. But they did not know.

The Temple was beautiful. The people gazed at the gold and silver gate, the marble steps, the large pillars, the altar of sacrifice and the golden candlesticks. Jesus knew that this was His Father's House.

There was singing in the Temple and the sound of silver trumpets. Sacrifices were made by the priests. The Scriptures were read by the teachers of the Law of God. At last the celebration was all over for another year.

People began their journey home. As Joseph and Mary walked with their friends, they talked of the wonderful things they had heard and seen. On and on they went.

It was almost the end of the first day of their journey when Mary realized she had not seen Jesus along the road. He was not with Joseph or the other men. He was not with the boys his age. She could not find Him anywhere.

Sadly Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem. Where could He be? Reaching the city, they went from one place to another asking, "Have you seen Jesus?" But always the answer was, "No, we have not seen Him."

Three days they hunted for Him. Then they thought of the Temple. *Can He be there?* they wondered.

Through the large gates, up the steps and into the Temple they hurried.



Show Illustration #3

There He was! He was sitting with great and wise teachers—teachers of the Law of God. Jesus, who was only twelve years old, was talking with those educated men. And they were amazed at His understanding and answers!

Mary and Joseph rushed to Jesus. "Why have You done this to us?" Mary asked. "We have been searching everywhere for You. We have been worried and sad."

"But why did you need to search for Me?" Jesus asked. "Did you not know that I would be here in the House of my Father?"

4. JESUS OBEYED GOD AND HIS PARENTS

Luke 2:50-52

Joseph and Mary did not really understand what Jesus meant. But they were eager to be on their way. So Jesus, the Son of God, rose immediately and went with them out of the Temple and back to their home in Nazareth.



Show Illustration #4

There at home Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph always. Each day He helped Joseph with his work in the carpenter shop. In every way He did exactly what His heavenly Father wanted Him to do. So Jesus grew both tall and wise and was loved by God and man.

There was one who never, never loved Him. That was His enemy, Satan. We have seen in the early part of this lesson how Satan tried to kill the Lord Jesus when He was a baby. You will not want to miss the next class, when we shall see how Satan again tried to get rid of

the Lord Jesus when He was a Man. But remember always that the Father God and God the Son can never be defeated . . . never!

(You, teacher, will know the needs of your students. They understand that they are quite unlike the Son of God. They do not always do what is right. [Nor do we teachers always do

right!] Satan is powerful. But our students and we can turn to God for help to overcome the enemy of God, Satan. Let us pray that we, like the Lord Jesus, shall be obedient in all matters. And may we enjoy victory in our Christian lives, by the help of God.)