

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Five

Satan's Desire

The desire of Satan for power, authority and worship is set forth in Isaiah chapter 14: 12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

The desire of Satan or Lucifer is set forth for us in the form of five "I wills" showing us what Satan is trying to accomplish.

The first is "I will ascend into heaven." This is consistent with the doctrine the serpent set forth in the Garden of Eden when he told the woman, "Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Thus, he said to the woman that by an act of the creature the creature could attain to be like God. This is also the doctrine of most of the religious world today. They believe that by an act of will or action that man can attain to eternal life. This is a satanic doctrine and is a lie. The truth is that eternal life is the gift of God and the creature cannot do anything to get it.

The second is "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." This shows forth the desire of Satan to reign over the stars of God. In the scriptures, the "stars" frequently depict God's children. It is Satan's desire to reign as a King over the children of God. In order for Satan to reign over the children of God, he must convince them that he is the true King and that they should obey him in his kingdom. This requires much subtlety and deception.

The third is "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." In the scriptures, Mount Zion is known as the "mount of the congregation." We read about the "sides of the north" in Ps. 48: "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." The "sides of the north" are therefore, "the city of the great King." The church is known as the "city of God." Satan desires to sit at the top of the kingdom of God and be worshipped by the Lord's church. Again, this can only happen where people are

deceived and believe that Satan is God.

The fourth is "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds." In the scriptures, the clouds are associated with the glory of God. It is Satan's desire that he have more glory than God does in that he desires to ascent "above" the heights of the clouds, which depict the glory of God. Again, this is done through subtlety, as God's children would not glorify Satan unless they believed Satan to be God.

The fifth is "I will be like the most High." The obstacle that Satan has in being like the most High is that Satan is a fallen creature and God is the creator. Satan is also an imitator. He uses the mirror image principle to be like the most High.

I will illustrate the mirror image principle by using myself as an example. When I look in the mirror in the morning, I see what at first glance appears to be the almost perfect image of myself. However, the image in the mirror is the closest to being the exact opposite of me. My left ear in the mirror is my right ear. My left eye in the mirror is my right eye. Everything in the mirror is exactly opposite of me.

Satan tries to be the exact opposite of God. God is the God of all truth. Satan is a liar and the father of liars. God is the giver of life. Satan is a murderer from the beginning. God has a bride (His church) that is pure and a virgin. Satan's bride (so-called church) is a harlot and the mother of harlots. God is love but Satan is hate. God is light but Satan is darkness. God is a Spirit, but Satan is a multitude of false spirits.

Using the mirror image approach, Satan tries to be like the most High.