

# THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN

## INTRODUCTION

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*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. On is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight. ~ C. S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters, 3*

## WHO IS SATAN?

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- Any believer who reads the Scriptures is made aware of this archenemy of God and of his angels or messengers
- 7 OT books and every NT book refers to the existence of Satan
- Jesus frequently referred to Satan

*Matt 13:39 ~ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.*

*Luke 10:18 ~ And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*

*Luke 11:18 ~ If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.*

### His Nature

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#### 1. He is a Created Being

*Ezekiel 28:15 ~ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.*

- He was created as part of the angelic realm, probably very early on day 1 of creation
- He was created the highest in rank of them all (Ezek 28:12-14)
- He is a limited creature...He is limited by God (Job 1:12)...He is not God's equal (1 John 4:4)
- He is not omniscient, omnipotent, or infinite in any way

#### 2. He is a Spirit Being

*Ephesians 2:2 ~ in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

*Job 1:6 ~ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*

### 3. He is a Person

#### 1) Intellect

*2 Corinthians 11:3 ~ But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity [of devotion] to Christ.*

#### 2) Emotion

*Revelation 12:17 ~ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

#### 3) Will

*2 Timothy 2:26 ~ and they may come to their senses [and escape] from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

### His Names

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<i>Satan</i> (Job 1:6)	Adversary or opposer
<i>Devil</i> (Matt 4:1)	Slander, falsely accuse
<i>Beelzebub</i> (Luke 11:15)	Chief of the demons
<i>Belial</i> (2 Cor 6:15)	Worthless, wicked
<i>Lucifer</i> (Isaiah 14:12)	The Vulgate translation of “son of the morning”
<i>Evil One</i> (1 John 5:19)	Evil in character
<i>Dragon</i> (Rev 12-13)	Fierce nature
<i>Prince of Demons</i> (Matt 12:24)	Leader of demonic realm
<i>Accuser</i> (Rev 12:10)	Accuses the brethren
<i>Tempter</i> (Matt 4:3)	Tempts people to sin
<i>Ruler of this World</i> (John 12:31)	Leader of current fallen world system
<i>Prince of the Power of Air</i> (Eph 2:2)	Ruler of fallen world
<i>God of this World</i> (2 Cor 4:4)	Deceiver of unbelievers
<i>Deceiver</i> (Rev 12:9)	Deceiver
<i>Adversary</i> (1 Pet 5:8)	Opponent of believers
<i>Father of Lies, Murderer</i> (John 8:44)	Liar
<i>Angel of Light</i> (2 Cor 11:14)	Disguises of Good, but is Evil

### His Career Outlined

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#### 1. The Pristine Period – from his creation to his fall

- This was a very short pre-fall period of time, perhaps just a few days

## **2. The Present Period – from the fall to Revelation 12 (his banishment to earth)**

- This time period is characterized by him walking about seeking someone to devour (1 Pet 5:8)
- During this time he is the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:2), the “god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4)
- He has access to God’s throne room during this period (Job 1-2)
- His abode is in the heavenlies (Eph 6:11-12)

## **3. The Period on Earth – from Revelation 12 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ**

- During this time he is expelled from heaven and banished to earth (Rev 12:7-12)
- His primary activity during this time is the persecution of Israel during the Tribulation (Rev 12:13-17)
- He deceives with signs and wonders (2 Thess 2:9)
- The Restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)

## **4. The Period in the Abyss – for 1000 years during the Millennium until His Release**

- He is held captive in the abyss, unable to deceive the nations any longer (Rev 20:1-3)

## **5. The Period of Release – for a short time until the Great White Throne Judgment**

- Satan is released from the abyss for a short time to make one last ditch effort to destroy Christ (Rev 20:7-10)

## **6. The Period in the Lake of Fire – for eternity**

- He is cast into this lake of fire to be tormented day and night (Rev 20:10)

### **His Fall**

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#### *Ezekiel 28:12-18*

- The context of this passage is God’s judgment upon the King of Tyre but clearly the power behind him was Satan; thus, most likely this is a reference to fall of Satan, which the King of Tyre illustrates
- This is a prophetic lamentation over the “King of Tyre” who is described in language that fits Satan’s fall and not a mere human king
- Notice the terminology in this passage that describes his attributes and appearance:

Vs. 12 ~ seal of perfection  
 Vs. 13 ~ you were in Eden  
 Vs. 14 ~ you were the anointed cherub  
 Vs. 14 ~ you were on the holy mountain of God  
 Vs. 15 ~ you were blameless in your ways

- These terms refer to more than just a mere human being
- There came a time when this “anointed cherub” became unrighteous  
 Vs. 15 ~ until unrighteousness was found in you  
 Vs. 16 ~ you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned
- What was the cause of this unrighteousness? → Pride  
 Vs. 17 ~ your heart was lifted up because of your beauty
- As a result, God cast Satan out of heaven  
 Vs. 16 ~ I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God.  
 Vs. 16 ~ I have destroyed you, O covering cherub  
 Vs. 17 ~ I cast you to the ground  
 Vs. 18 ~ I have turned you to ashes on the earth

### ***Isaiah 14:12-15***

- The context of this passage is God’s judgment upon the King of Babylon but clearly the power behind him was Satan; thus this is likely more than just a reference to the king of Babylon...it is also likely a description of Satan’s fall
- In fact, Jesus quoted Isaiah 14:12 in Luke 10:18 to describe Satan’s fall...the preincarnate Christ was a witness to Satan’s fall
- Satan is called Lucifer  
 Vs. 12 ~ star of the morning, son of the dawn
- Lucifer became Satan when God cast him out of heaven  
 Vs. 12 ~ you have been cut down to the earth
- It was Lucifer’s pride, his desire to be like God Himself, that led to his fall
- Notice the 5-fold “I will” statements:  
 Vs. 13-14 ~ I will...I will...I will...I will...I will
- This ultimate form of pride (“I will be like the Most High” – v.14) fits the New Testament description of Satan’s fall in 1 Tim 3:6.
- Notice the consequences to Satan’s pride:  
 Vs. 15 ~ Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit

**John 8:44** ~ *the devil ...was a murderer from the beginning ...there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.*

**1 John 3:8** ~ *The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning...*

## His Work

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- Satan is seeking to oppose God's plan by promoting evil in every possible way

### 1. He Battles Christ

*Genesis 3:15 ~ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."*

Satan:

Was Behind Herod's killing of the children ~ Matt 2:16

Tempted Christ ~ Matt 4:1-11

Was behind Peter's desire to keep Jesus from the cross ~ Matt 16:21

Entered Judas before he betrayed Christ ~ John 13:27

Tempted Christ for forty days - Luke 4:1-13

### 2. He Counterfeits God's Program

*Genesis 3:5 ~ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*

*2 Corinthians 11:13-15 ~ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

### 3. He Undermines God's Word

*He casts doubt on it*

*Genesis 3:1 ~ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Indeed, has God said,** 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"*

*He distorts it*

*Genesis 3:3 ~ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it **or touch it**, or you will die.'* "

*He denies it*

*Genesis 3:4-5 ~ The serpent said to the woman, "**You surely will not die!**"<sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

*He blinds the minds of men*

*2 Cor 4:4 ~ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

*He snatches away the seed of the Word*

*Matt 13:19 ~ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.*

### ***He introduces deceitful doctrines***

*1 Tim 4:1 ~ But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,*

## **4. He Deceives the Nations**

*Revelation 20:3 ~ and threw him(Satan) into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*

## **5. He Opposes Believers**

### ***By tempting them***

*1 Thessalonians 3:5 ~ For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor should be in vain.*

*1 Cor 7:5 ~ Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

### ***By accusing them falsely***

*Job 1:9-11 ~ Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face."*

*Revelation 12:10 ~ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.*

### ***By trying to defeat them in general***

*1 Peter 5:8 ~ Be of sober [spirit,] be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

*2 Cor 5:11 ~ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.*

### ***By hindering their work for God***

*1 Thess 2:18 ~ For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.*

### ***By instigating persecution against them***

*Rev 2:10 ~ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*