

KNOWING ABOUT SATAN

PART ONE: The existence and reality of Satan

A. Taught by the Old Testament

- Scripture references: Job 1:6; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Isaiah 14:12; Zechariah 3:1

B. Taught by the New Testament

- Scripture references: Matthew 12:26; Acts 13:10; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Hebrews 2:14; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 3:8

PART TWO: Satan is a person

A. Meaning of Satan being a person

1. A person is a being which has personality: thoughts, feelings, ability to choose, ability to speak and God-consciousness.
2. This means that he is not a mere influence, personification or symbol.

B. Scriptural evidence

1. Revelation 12:12
 - a. Thoughts: "knowing"
 - b. Feelings: "wrath"
2. 2 Timothy 2:26 – ability to choose: "his will"
3. Luke 4:3
 - a. able to speak: "The devil said"
 - b. God-consciousness: "God"

C. Though Satan is a person, he is a spirit being (Ephesians 2:2).

D. Limitations of Satan

1. 2 Chronicles 6:19, 30 - He does not know our thoughts.
2. Satan is not present everywhere, but has the ability to accomplish his work in different places at one time through his angels, i.e. demons.
3. Revelation 12:7-10; 20:1-3; James 4:7 Revelation 20:1-3; James 4:7 – Satan is not all-powerful.

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PART THREE: Names, titles and characterizations of Satan

A. Revelation 12:9-10

1. Dragon: Word means a keen power to see and therefore exploit our weaknesses.
2. Serpent: Emphasizes his deadliness.
3. Satan: Meaning adversary which emphasizes his opposition to the believer, to God and to God's program.
4. Devil: Meaning slanderer which emphasizes how he promotes falsehood to put God, His word and His people in a bad light.
5. Accuser of the brethren (eg. Job 1:6-11). This shows that he maligns believers before God and the holy angels in heaven.

B. Revelation 9:11

1. Abaddon (Hebrew) and Apollyon (Greek)
2. Both words mean destruction and emphasize the destructive nature of Satan's work.

C. Matthew 4:3

- Tempter: This emphasizes Satan's activity in enticing and soliciting people to do evil.

D. Matthew 12:24

- Beelzebub or Beelzebul: This word means a master of a household, in this case a household of wicked angels called demons.

E. Matthew 13:19

- The wicked one: This emphasizes his evil character.

F. 2 Corinthians 4:4

- The god of this age: This shows his authority is temporary not eternal.

G. 2 Corinthians 6:15

- Belial: Means worthless in contrast to the worthiness of Christ.

H. 2 Corinthians 11:14

- Angel of light: This emphasizes his skill to make a lie appear to be the truth and a sin to be right.

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I. John 12:31

- The prince or ruler of this world: This emphasizes Satan's authority over the organized system consisting totally of the unsaved.

J. Ephesians 2:2

- The prince or ruler over the power, i.e. authority of the air: This means Satan's authority is focused and concentrated on the earth.

K. Isaiah 14:12

- Lucifer or Day Star: This is related to Satan's activity disguising himself as an angel of light.

L. John 8:44

1. Murderer: Satan enacted the first sin (Isaiah 14:12-14) and introduced sin and death into the world through Adam (Romans 5:12).
2. Liar: And the father (i.e. source) of lies starting with Genesis 3:4. Satan has continually promoted lying as one of his tactics.

M. 1 Peter 5:8

1. Adversary: In opposition to us and God's working in our lives.
2. Roaring lion: Shows Satan powerful, dangerous and not to be taken lightly.

N. 1 John 3:8

- Satan has sinned from the beginning as a rebel against the purposes, program and character of God.

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PART FOUR: The Origin of Satan

A. Satan's creation

1. Ezekiel 28:15: Satan was created.
2. Ezekiel 28:14: He was of a special group of angels called Cherubim who guard the holiness and righteousness of God.
3. Ezekiel 28:12: Satan had great wisdom and beauty.
4. Ezekiel 28:15: Satan was morally perfect.

B. Satan's fall

1. Isaiah 14:13; Ezekiel 28:15-16: Mental attitude sin brought about Satan's downfall.
2. 1 Timothy 3:6: Satan's sin is called pride.
3. Isaiah 14:12-14: This mental attitude sin of pride consisted of five "I wills."
 - a. "I will ascend into heaven." – control over the third heaven which is God's abode.
 - b. "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." – control over the second heaven where the sun, moon and stars are.
 - c. "I will sit upon the mount of the congregation." – control over God's planned Messianic kingdom.
 - d. "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds." – control over the first heaven where the birds and clouds are.
 - e. "I will be like the Most High." – Satan wanted to be like God by being in charge.
4. Ezekiel 28:17: Because of Satan's sinful pride which brought about his fall, he corrupted his wisdom. He did not lose his wisdom. It was from that time forward not available for God's use.

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PART FIVE: The question of Satan's dominion

A. The past

1. Genesis 1:28: Man was originally given dominion over the earth.
2. Matthew 4:8; John 12:31: When man fell, Satan wrested dominion over the earth from man.
3. Matthew 28:18: After Christ's death and resurrection, Christ was possessor of all authority over Heaven and earth.

B. The present

1. 1 Corinthians 15:24-28: It is very clear that while Christ possesses all authority over the earth and heaven that everything has not yet been subdued by Him according to verse 28. This awaits Christ's second coming and His 1000 year kingdom over the earth.
2. 1 John 5:19; Ephesians 2:2: The world system of the unsaved lies in the grip and control of the rebel government of Satan.
3. John 17:14-16: Although believers are in this world, they are no longer a part of it.
4. Colossians 1:13; Acts 26:18; John 3:5; 1 John 5:1: When we trusted Christ for salvation, we were transferred from Satan's kingdom to Christ's kingdom through the new birth.
5. 2 Chronicles 20:6; Daniel 4:35: God rules or is sovereign over heaven and earth.
 - a. Therefore, Satan's rebel government is by God's permission.
 - b. There, God can choose and act to halt any activity or plan of Satan's rebel government.

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PART SIX: Six judgments on Satan.

A. Past

1. Isaiah 14:12: Satan was cast out of his original position in Heaven. He lost the right to reside there but still has access as the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10 cp. Job 1:6-11).
2. Genesis 3:15: A sentence of judgment was pronounced on Satan in Eden for his role in the fall of man.
3. John 12:31; Hebrews 2:14: Satan was judged at the cross.
 - a. He lost the dominion of death to Christ (Rev. 1:18.).
 - b. His future defeat as ruler of this world was assured.

B. Future

1. Revelation 12:9-10: Satan will be permanently cast out of Heaven and lose his access as accuser of the brethren during the middle of the seven year tribulation period.
2. Revelation 20:1-3: At the beginning of Christ's 1000 year kingdom, Satan will be bound and imprisoned in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.
3. Revelation 20:7-10: Satan will be released at the end of the 1000 years for a short period of time. He will start a rebellion which results in the death of the rebels. Satan will then be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever.

PART SEVEN: Satan's opposition to the work of Christ

A. Matthew 4:1-11: Satan directly tempted Christ.

B. Satan tried to use these people to hinder Christ's work.

1. Matthew 2:16 cp. Revelation 2:4: Herod.
2. John 8:13, 44: The Jewish religious leaders.
3. Matthew 16:21-23: Peter.
4. John 13:21, 26-27: Judas Iscariot.

PART EIGHT: Satan's relationship to the nations

A. Revelation 20:3: Satan deceives the nations.

B. 1 Chronicles 21:1: He stands against or opposes Israel.

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PART NINE: Satan and unbelievers

A. Their relationship to Satan

1. 1 John 3:10: They are his children.
2. Ephesians 2:2: Satan works in the unbelievers.
3. John 8:44 – Unbelievers do Satan's desires.
4. Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15: They share his destiny - hell.

B. Satan's activity in relation to unbelievers and the gospel.

1. 2 Corinthians 4:4: He blinds their minds to the gospel.
2. Luke 8:12: He snatches the word out of their hearts to keep them from believing.

C. Revelation 2:9-10: Satan uses unbelievers to persecute believers.

PART TEN: Satan and believers

A. Satan tempts believers to sin.

1. Acts 5:3: lying.
2. 1 Corinthians 7:5: sexual immorality.

B. Revelation 12:10: He continually accuses believers before God but is thwarted by the advocacy of Christ (1 John 2:1).

C. 1 Thessalonians 2:18: Satan hinders the work of the believer for God.

D. Ephesians 6:11-12: He uses his angels called demons in his struggle against us.

E. Matthew 13:38-39: He plants tares (=counterfeit believers) among wheat (true believers).

F. Satan's activity is used by God to discipline carnal believers.

1. Luke 22:31-32: sifting the carnal and self-confident believers.
2. 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Timothy 1:20: breaking the power of the sin nature in believers who are disciplined by the church.

G. God limits Satan's activities against believers: Job 1:12: directly, Jude 1:9: through angels, James 4:7: through the yielded believer.

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PART ELEVEN: Satan's counterfeits

A. People and information

1. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4
 - a. counterfeit Christ.
 - b. counterfeit Holy Spirit.
 - c. counterfeit gospel.
2. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15: counterfeit ministers.
3. 1 Timothy 4:1: counterfeit doctrine.
4. James 3:14-16: counterfeit wisdom.
5. Revelation 2:24 cp. 1 Corinthians 2:10: counterfeit system of deeper spiritual truths.

B. Activities

1. 1 Corinthians 10:20-21: counterfeit communion table.
2. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9: counterfeits God's miracles.

PART TWELVE: Satan and sin

A. Origin

1. Isaiah 14:12: Satan enacted the first sin.
2. Romans 5:12: Sin was transmitted to people through Adam.

B. Sources of temptation

1. 1 Thessalonians cp. Ephesians 6:11-12: Satan and his demons.
2. 1 John 2:15-17: World system, i.e. the sin natures of others.
3. James 1:13-15: Our own sinful natures as people.

C. Sin during Christ's 1000 year reign

1. Revelation 20:3: Satan will be bound.
2. Zechariah 14:16-19: Yet there will be sin via people's sin natures.

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PART THIRTEEN: The believer's defenses against Satan

A. Psalm 119:11 cp. Matthew 4:1-11:

A thorough knowledge of God's word.

- Reason: Satan misuses God's word.

1. Matthew 4:6 cp. Psalm 91:11-12: By not using all of God's word.
2. Genesis 3:1-5 cp. Genesis 2:16-17: By questioning God's word and then denying God's word.

B. Luke 22:31-32: Christ's praying for us.

C. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: Recognize that God may use Satan for beneficial purposes in the believer's life.

D. Jude 1:8-9 – Do not speak lightly of Satan.

E. 1 Peter 5:8-9: Satan attacks with trials and problems.

1. Be alert or discerning for his attacks.
2. Guard your thought life from the spiritual danger.
3. Resist Satan by being steadfast in the faith, i.e. New Testament.

F. James 4:7: Dealing with Satan's attacks

1. We are to submit to God (once and for all, Greek verb tense as in Romans 6:13; 12:1) as an act of consecration.
 - a. To do this, we transfer our rights, desires and goals to God.
 - b. cp. Luke 9:23: Then we live out this decision day to day.
 - c. Consecration like marriage involves a once and for all commitment followed by living it out day by day.
2. After this surrender to God, we resist Satan by being firm in the faith, i.e. the truth of the New Testament (cp. 1 Peter 5:9).
3. If we yield to God and resist Satan, God promises he will flee.

G. 2 Corinthians 2:11: Know the methods of Satan

1. 2 Corinthians 2:6-11
 - a. Make unforgiven believers feel overwhelmed by sorrow.
 - b. Promote an unforgiving attitude among believers toward other believers who have sinned.
2. 1 Peter 5:8: Intimidate and overpower believers.
3. John 8:44 cp. Genesis 3:4-5: Outright lying.
4. 2 Corinthians 11:14: counterfeit God's workings

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PART THIRTEEN: The believer's defenses against Satan ...continued...

H. Ephesians 6:10-18: Using God's armor (spiritual provisions) for victory over Satan.

1. 6:10-13: General instructions
 - a. 6:10: Depend on Christ's strength not your own.
 - b. 6:11: Use all of them not just part of it.
 - c. 6:12: Recognize that Satan and his demons are the real enemy rather than people.
 - d. 6:13: Be sure that you have used every provision before you try to stand firm. In other words, before you passively leave the matter with the Lord, be sure to carry out every scripture-commanded responsibility.
2. 6:14-18: Spiritual armor or spiritual provisions
 - a. 6:14a: Truthfulness (cp. Ephesians 4:15, 25; Psalm 51:6).
 - b. 6:14b: Righteousness, i.e. practical righteousness, ordering our lives, thoughts, behavior by the standard of God's word (cp. Matthew 5:6; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22).
 - c. 6:15: Be prepared to share the gospel (cp. 1 Peter 3:15).
 - d. 6:16: Faith when Satan hurls his temptations at you (1 Peter 1:6-7). Not saving faith but day-to-day faith in the tests and temptations of the Christian life.
 - e. 6:17a cp. 1 Thessalonians 5:8: Hope of salvation – anticipation of Christ's anytime return (1 John 3:2-3).
 - f. 6:17b: God's word, our offensive weapon.
 - (1) Psalm 119:11: know it.
 - (2) Hebrews 4:2: believe it.
 - (3) James 1:22: obey it.
 - g. 6:18: Specific prayer for other believers which is persevering and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

I. Revelation 12:11 – 3 means by which we overcome Satan:

1. The blood of Christ appropriated at salvation (Romans 3:25) and appropriated for ongoing fellowship with Him (1 John 1:7).
2. The word of our testimony or witness (1 John 5:9-12).
3. Sacrificial love for God and His people (Luke 14:26; 1 John 3:16).