

SATANOLOGY (10)

These names clearly indicate that Satan is very active in this world and in many respects dominating the world. This means that all philosophies, education, objectives and goals of this world are all part of a carefully orchestrated, satanic system designed to move people away from the truth of God. A major mistake that believers can make is to assume that Satan only does those things which society says are evil. Dr. Chafer well observed, "...the system which Satan has constructed includes all the good which he can incorporate into it and be consistent in the thing he aims to accomplish" (Vol. 2, p. 100).

QUESTION #4 – What is the twofold main objective of Satan?

Satan's twofold primary objective is: 1) Exalt himself; 2) Oppose God. Because Satan has great power in this world, the believer may expect a hostile warfare, especially if we keep these two main objectives in mind.

God is working, in this present age, through His people and His Church to accomplish His will. Since Satan is out to exalt himself and oppose God, he will do everything he can to try to prevent the faithful believer and church from accomplishing God's will. The faithful believer and church will often discover that he is seemingly on the short end of the stick at times and will also discover that those who are totally alienated from God seem to be elevated. **This is due to the fact that the believer is right in the middle of a war between Satan and God. The believer is Satan's target because he is directly connected to God.** Three texts support this:

(Passage #1) - John 16:33 .

A believer will never find peace in this world, but will discover it will be a place of intense pressure ("tribulation"). The world will be a pressure cooker for the believer but we will always find our peace in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

(Passage #2) - II Timothy 3:12 .

The indicative mood indicates that it is a fact that all who even "desire" to live godly will, in some ways, suffer hardships and persecution. The more a believer moves toward areas of godliness in thinking and life, the more difficult life will be. God will never allow any believer to have more than he can bear, but all God will allow Satan will try to use.

(Passage #3) - I John 3:13 .

Believers will discover they are at odds with the world. There will be an intense, hateful animosity against those who love God and his Word. Our views, testimony, lifestyle and even our presence is a prime target for satanic assault.

The satanic world is out to cripple the believer and any believer or church that is moving in the true ways of God in knowing His Word can expect major assaults. More on this subject will be discussed later, but we need to realize that we are living in a world dominated by Satan.

SATANOLOGY (11)

Dr. Charles Ryrie quotes Dr. Trench in saying: "...all that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world, which may be impossible to seize and accurately define, but which constitute a most real and effective power, being the moral or immoral, (is the) subtle informing spirit of (this) world of men who are living alienated from God" (*Basic Theology*, p. 139). Satan is behind it all and his names tell us much about his character and work and they challenge us to sharpen our spiritual senses with an understanding of the Word of God.

QUESTION #5 – When was Satan created?

The exact time of Satan's creation is unknown. Job 38:1-7 implies that Satan, along with the other angels, was created very early in God's creative work.

QUESTION #6 – Why was Satan created?

Here is one of the great mysterious questions of theology. God knows all things from beginning to end and He obviously knew Satan would turn out the way he turned out. So the question arises- why did God even create Satan?

Before answering this question, we need to clearly remember that **God cannot ever be blamed for any evil. Evil is not a possibility with God (James 1:13)**. The blame then for Satan becoming evil must rest totally and completely upon Satan himself and not God. Satan could have remained a holy angel as 2/3rds of all the angels chose to do. Having said this, there are three reasons why God created Satan:

Reason #1 - Satan was created to demonstrate the ultimate level of perfection in God's creative angelic ability. Ezekiel 28:12

Reason #2 - Satan was created as a good creation of God (Gen. 1:31) to glorify God. I Peter 4:11

Reason #3 - Satan was created by God and for God and this is still true today. Colossians 1:16

When all is said and done, God will have taken everything Satan has done and will have used it to accomplish His ultimate purposes. God is able to use Satan and even satanic things to accomplish His will. A perfect example of this is seen in John 13:2, 26-27, 31-32.

There is much about God we would never know if evil did not exist. We would not know about His love and His grace and His mercy. We would not know about His cleansing forgiveness. We would not know how sweet it is to fellowship with God without knowing what it was like not to fellowship with God. Satan plays an important role in that many of us know more about God through his existence.

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QUESTION #7 – What was Satan like when he was created?

The major passage of Scripture that describes what Satan was like when he was first created is Ezekiel 28:11-19.

The contextual subject matter of verses 1-19 is the judgment against Tyre and the judgment against Tyre's arrogant leader. Tyre was a merchant capital of the world during Ezekiel's time and it was a key city to which the world looked for leadership and philosophy. The world looked to Tyre for leadership and philosophical direction, much like people of this country look to Washington D.C.

Tyre had commerce and trade second to none in the world. It had become a very proud city and from God's perspective a very doomed city. It is apparent in the first ten verses of the chapter that Ezekiel is offering a scathing, prophetic rebuke. This specific rebuke was aimed at Ethbaal III, who ruled Tyre from 590 B.C. to 572 B.C. One of the terrible and arrogant things that Ethbaal did was to claim he was "a god" (Ezek. 28:2).

As we come to verse 11, however, and specifically to verse 13, it becomes very clear that one far more important than the leader of Tyre is in view. Ezekiel is also describing the one who was behind this proud arrogance. He describes one who was the epitome of God's creation, one who held the highest possible rank and then proudly rebelled. He described one who had been in Eden, the garden of God. He describes Satan. From this very critical passage we learn a great deal about Satan. We learn what he was like when he was first created. There are seven observations we may make:

(Observation #1) - Satan was the sum total of perfection. Ezek. 28:12

Two specific areas of Satan's perfection are discussed in this verse: 1) His wisdom; 2) His beauty. When the text says that Satan was "full of wisdom" it implies that when Satan was created, he was perfectly capable of discerning all the best from good options. He was created with an innate insight and ability to always choose the best. Instead of using this wisdom for a positive development for himself and for the purposes of God, he proudly turned against the One who gave him great wisdom- God. Now Satan uses this same wisdom to always do the worst. He is able to discern the best and will always do that which leads people away from it.

When the text says that Satan was "perfect in beauty" it implies that Satan was beautiful in the sense of brightness and splendor. When Satan was originally created by God, he was perfect inside (wisdom) and outside (beauty). He was the ultimate of God's angelic creation.

The language further illustrates that this text is not speaking about a finite sinful man. Dr. Chafer said: "Such terminology has no place in the mouth of Jehovah concerning a fallen man, who, at best, is but a heathen king. The expression however, is according to truth when seen to be a message to the greatest angels in his unfallen state" (Vol. 2, p. 41). Satan was the ultimate creation of God in intelligence and beauty. He was the "sum total of perfection."