

SATANOLOGY (16)

As believers, we have been created by God and have become a new creative work of God (II Cor. 5:17). We have become a new demonstration of His workmanship (Eph. 2:1-10). Let us always submit ourselves to God's Word, for if we begin to think that our views or opinions are more important than God's revealed truth, we are falling into the trap of Satan.

QUESTION #8 – What was Satan's specific sin?

Although we have already discussed the essence Satan's sin, there is one inspired passage God has placed in His Word that is specifically given to show his sin - Isaiah 14:12-17 .

As in the case with the text of Ezekiel, this text in Isaiah also sits in a context. The context was specifically aimed "against the King of Babylon" (Is.14:4), who was Sennacherib. However, as we come to verse 12, it becomes evident that God has more than just this king in mind, but also one who has "fallen from heaven" who is none other than Satan. This being is identified by the title "star of the morning" (Is. 14:12). As Dr. C.I. Scofield said, the star of the morning can be none other than Satan (Scofield Reference Bible, NASV, p. 939).

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, in discussing this title "Star of the Morning" which in Latin is "Lucifer" writes: "The title "Lucifer, son of the morning" is the glorious heavenly designation of this great angel before his moral fall. Lucifer means "bright" or "shining one" and is almost identical with nahash, the serpent, which means 'the shining one.' Christ bears the titles, "bright and morning star" and "Sun of righteousness." The titles "Lucifer, son of the morning and bright and morning star are much the same. Christ is called "the last Adam" as a successor to the first Adam who fell. Is it not possible that, in some unrevealed manner, He is the "bright and morning star" as successor to the fallen "Lucifer, son of the morning"? This is but one of the many parallels and contrasts between Christ and Satan, between Christ and Adam, and between Satan and Adam" (Vol. 2, p. 47).

Jesus Christ, Himself, said that Satan "was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44). **From this passage in Isaiah, we learn that his initial murder attempt was against God .**

In this Isaiah passage, there are five "I wills" that clearly reveal the murderous nature and heart of Satan. It is well to observe that satanic evil and motives are matters of the heart (14:13a). One will not always externally verbalize the satanic evil, but God will always see it in the heart.

Satanic "I will" #1 - "I will ascend to heaven." Is. 14:13b

The first "I will" clearly proves this is a reference to Satan, for no man would even have the potential for access into heaven. To understand this "I will," we need to remember that biblically speaking there are three heavens (II Corinthians 12:2).

- 1) There is the heaven where the birds fly- our atmosphere. Jeremiah 4:25
- 2) There is the heaven where the planets are- the stellar heaven. Isaiah 13:10
- 3) There is the heaven where God's Throne is- God's heaven. Revelation 4:2

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The desire of Satan's heart and the statement that he will "ascend to heaven" is really his desire to take up residency on the Throne of God in the third heaven. Satan had the audacity to want God's Throne. He was not content with his own high ranking position, but he wanted to occupy the same position reserved only for God.

A satanic heart and mind are not content with the position God gives. It wants more and more by self-promotion and self-elevation. The Pharisees elevated themselves to "sit in Moses seat" (Mt. 23:2) and this is the same satanic, proud arrogance that desires to "ascend to heaven."

Whenever an individual is given to self-promotion and self-elevation that thinks more highly of oneself than he should, it is not God's Spirit at work, it is of the mind and heart of Satan.

Satanic "I Will" #2 - "I will raise my throne above the stars of God." Is. 14:13c

There are several passages in the Bible that clearly indicate the noun "stars" is very often used as a metaphorical picture referring to angels (Job 38:7; Jude 13; Rev. 1:20; 12:3-4). There are also instances when the noun "stars" is a reference to literal stars (Mt. 2:2).

It is possible that when Satan said "I will raise my throne above the stars of God" that he was referring to the fact that he wanted total and complete control over all of the angels to the extent that no angel was accountable to God, but only to him. Furthermore, he wanted total control over all creation.

Satan wanted his level raised to having total dominion and power over everything. Satan was not content with the position God gave him, but he wanted to raise his own rank to the level in which he totally controlled the universe and everything in it.

Satanic "I Will" #3 - "I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north." Is. 14:13d

The "mount" may be understood as referring to God's governmental center on earth (Is. 2:1-4). It specifically refers to the place where God will reign in the Person of Jesus Christ. This passage is obviously speaking of a future theocratic (God-ruled) society with a primary emphasis to the nation Israel.

Psalm 48:1-2 speaks of the Messianic King reigning from Mount Zion "in the far north." Dr. Chafer also points out that Jesus Christ was ultimately crucified on the north side of the city of Jerusalem (Vo. 2, p. 48).

What is specifically meant by this "I will" statement is that Satan wanted total Messianic authority. He wanted to usurp the authority of Jesus Christ. Satan not only wanted control of all the angels and universe, but he also wanted control of the entire Messianic plan of God which included the reign of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. Satan wanted to exalt himself to the position of Jesus Christ.

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In a very practical sense, one who believes his own works can save him actually is one who is elevating himself to a very satanic level which desires to equate his works with the work of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:10-12).

Satanic “I Will” #4 - “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.” Is. 14:14a

There is in this statement a proud audacity that truly reveals the heart and mind of Satan. To understand this we must have some biblical understanding of the noun “clouds.”

For the most part, “clouds” is a reference to Divine Glory. It is very closely connected to God’s glorious presence and appearance. Dr. Chafer observed, “Of upwards of one hundred fifth references in the Bible to clouds, fully one hundred are related to the divine presence and glory.” (Vol. 2, p. 49). Several passages show this observation is correct: 1) Ex. 16:10; 2) Ex. 40:38; 3) I Thess. 4:16-17; 4) Mt. 24:30.

When we realize this significant point, we can clearly see what Satan wanted. He wanted more glory than God. He wanted to ascend above the glory of God. The fact that God deserved more praise and glory from His creative acts became a proud motivating force that moved Satan to proud rebellion.

It is wise for us to realize that this is still one of Satan’s major objectives. In fact, II Thessalonians 2:4 clearly teaches that when Satan produces his masterpiece, the Antichrist, this will be one of his major traits. The desire to lay claim to the honor and glory that only God deserves is satanic. Whenever a person refuses to concede that the ultimate glory belongs to God for every phase of life, whether physical or spiritual, it is the same kind of thinking that says: “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.”

Satanic “I Will” #5 - “I will make myself like the Most High.” Is. 14:14b

Here is the essence of satanic motivation; Satan wanted to be God. Satan wanted to be the equivalent to all that God is. He wanted the same power, the same status, the same authority and the same worship that only belongs to God.

In the minds of most, this important point has been missed. The universal impression is that Satan’s real desire is to be unlike God, to be the total opposite of God. The truth is Satan’s real desire is to be like God. This is often the reason for satanic rebellion. For example, I specifically know of a case in which a man had a deep desire to be pastor even though this was not his gift. It was this desire that led him to oppose and rebel against the real pastor God had given to the church. The principle is the same today- it is often the desire to be like one that causes one to turn against the one he desires to be. Satan wanted to be like God so he attacks God. There is nothing he desires more than the praise, worship and adoration that only belong to God. This is why a church must stick close to the Scriptures and doctrines. Satan is a master at producing counterfeit things to pull people away from God’s truth. II Cor. 11:4, 13-15 teach us that Satan has a system of theology and an abundance of religious teachers and theologians.

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The force that is motivating all of this is Satan's desire to still be like God. He wants people in religious worship services, worshipping anything but the true God of the Bible through Jesus Christ. As long as there are religious services not biblically based or doctrinally sound, he is accomplishing his objective. Satan is so involved in religion because he still desires to be "like the Most High." The primary sin of Satan is the sin of pride, but it was not just any pride. It was an extreme level of pride that desired the same position as God. It is no wonder that God hates pride and resists those who are proud, for such are, in fact, in a very real sense, satanic.

When we consider the privileged position that Satan originally had, which is carefully described in Ezekiel 28 and when we consider his evil proud desires which are carefully described in Isaiah 14, there is no question that God was perfectly just in immediately casting Satan and all angels associated with him out of the realm of His holy throne. Eventually, this rebellion will cause Satan to be cast into hell, where he and all those associated with him will burn forever (Is. 14:15; Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10). Satan's specific sin was pride and in eternity that sin will be the main reason people will end up in hell and end up losing rewards.

QUESTION #9 – How did Satan work in the Old Testament?

There is tremendous value in tracking Satan's work throughout the entire Bible because it gives us a complete and accurate picture of Satan's person and work. We may learn a great deal about him and his tactics by approaching the study this way. There are six main passages we want to consider:

Passage #1 - The first glimpse we get of Satan's tactics is Genesis 3:1-6.

This is a critical doctrinal passage because it gives us a good view of how Satan moves people to rebel against God. Now before we look at the specific tactics Satan uses, we make two observations:

(Observation #1) - Satan knows the Word of God. Gen.3:1

Satan is able to challenge one concerning knowledge of the Word of God because he is very knowledgeable concerning what God has and has not said. Satan's knowledge of God's Word and God's program is so precise that he even dared challenge Jesus Christ (Mt. 4:5-9). Satan knows exactly how God's prophetic program works and he is able to recognize his own time is running out (Rev. 12:12). Satan is so knowledgeable of God's Word that he uses his agents to "wrongly divide" not "rightly divide" God's Word. Satan cannot know God's Word at the level of the Holy Spirit, who is able to make a believer very wise and skilled in the Word, but he does have a working knowledge of the Bible, which is far greater than most believers who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. He will twist and turn passages and verses in a deceitful way which is why **it is imperative that we always examine the context**.