

Subject: *Biblical Truth about Satan – Part 1*

Scripture: *1 Peter 5:8-9*

We just finished a series of sermons about angels: their reality, names, types, organization, and ministry to God, to Christ, and to believers. The Bible tells us that not all angels are good and holy. The Bible speaks of the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*

In Scripture God has revealed the truth about Satan, the great liar and father of lies. An ancient Chinese proverb says, "If you know yourself and your adversary clearly, then in a hundred battles you will win a hundred times." Someone wrote an article titled, *If I Were the Devil*, which stated: "If I were the devil, the first thing I would do is to deny my own existence. I would deny my existence in the world and downplay it in the church, thus freeing me to go about my business unheeded and unhindered." The Bible teaches us that Satan is not a myth, a monster, or a joke. He is real and He is our adversary.

The Reality and Nature of Satan

1. Satan is mentioned in 8 OT books and 19 NT books of Scripture

Since the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God, its testimony about Satan is absolutely dependable and accurate. The Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of Satan nor does it try to prove the existence of God. Satan appears in Genesis 3 and he is found the last time Revelation 20. Every writer of the New Testament mentions Satan. In the Gospels, 28 out of 30 references involve direct encounters or mentions of Satan. Jesus is the speaker in 25 of the 29 passages in the Gospels where Satan is mentioned.

2. Satan is a created being (Col. 1:16; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:4-7)

He is not equal to God in any way. This is the false teaching called "dualism" in which good and evil, light and darkness, God and Satan oppose each other as competing forces. As a created being, Satan is accountable and judged by God (Job 1, 2; Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

3. Satan is a spirit being (1 Kgs. 22:21-23; Eph. 2:2)

Like other angels, he is a created spirit being. ***Matthew 25:41*** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.* He is a supernatural being, a powerful being, and a deadly being.

4. Satan is an active being (Job 1:7; 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:8). He is seen in heaven and on earth.

5. Satan has personal qualities:

A. Intelligence (Mt. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 2:11). He knows the Scriptures. He believes in the one true God and knows who Jesus is. He knows the best methods to use. He is not omniscient.

B. Emotion (wrath, Rev. 12:12; pride, 1 Tim. 3:6)

C. Will (Isa. 14:12-14; desire to destroy, Lk. 22:31; desire to enslave, 2 Tim. 2:26)

D. Personal statements and references (Job 1, 2; Mt. 4:1-12). Both God the Father and Christ had conversations with him. They spoke to him as a person, not as an influence or force. Some people wrongly think of Satan as the impersonal force of “evil.”

The Names and Titles of Satan

1. Satan (adversary, opponent, used about 52 times, Chr. 21:1; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Zech. 3:1-2; Mt. 4:10; Lk. 13:16; Jn. 13:27; Acts 5:3; 1 Th.. 2:18). This name is used most often in the Bible, 18 times in the OT and 36 times in the NT. He opposes God, His people, His Word, and His work. Satan can't defeat God, so he attacks people made in the image of God, the words God has inspired, and His work in the world, especially through the church.

2. Devil (slanderer; accuser, Gk., *diabolos*, used of Satan 34 times in the NT, (Mt. 4:1; 25:41; Lk. 8:12; Jn. 13:2; Jas. 4:7; Rev. 20:10). He slanders God to man and man to God (Job 1, 2).

3. Evil one, wicked one (Mt. 13:19; Jn. 17:15; 1 John 5:18-19). This name reveals his evil character, intentions, and influence. Apart from Satan and Devil, this name is the third-most-frequent name used. As the evil one, he stands in direct contrast to the righteous one, Christ.

4. Serpent (Gen. 3:1-14; 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9; 20:2). He is cunning and subtle, a crafty deceiver. Satan has been described as an artist who paints sin in attractive colors. He attacks suddenly and unexpectedly.

5. Dragon (Rev. 12:3, 7, 9; 20:2). This name refers to Satan's vicious character, not to his appearance.

6. Abaddon, Apollyon (Rev. 9:11) – He is the destroyer (Heb. *Abaddon*; Gk., *Apollyon*,. Satan seeks to destroy physical and spiritual life, God's people, and His work. He seeks to destroy individuals, families, and churches.

7. Adversary (1 Pet. 5:8) – He is described as a roaring lion that hunts prey to devour. Hal Lindsay wrote a best-selling book, *Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth*.

8. Beelzebub (Mt. 12:24; Mk. 3:22; Lk. 11:18-19). This name means lord of the flies or lord of filth. This was the name of a heathen god believed to be ruler of the demons. Scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the prince of demons.

9. Belial (2 Cor. 6:15) – He is most worthless, wicked, and vile. The word appears 27 times in the OT and refers to vile, wicked, and worthless scoundrels and troublemakers.

10. God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) – He controls the philosophy and value system of this world. He inspires, empowers, and directs all false religion in this world.

11. Ruler of this world (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). He has temporary control of this world system that is hostile to God (1 Jn. 5:19).

12. Prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2; 6:12). He controls evil spirit beings in the supernatural realm. Contrary to the popular idea, Satan does not live in hell. He is the ruler over the forces of darkness in the atmosphere (principalities, powers, thrones, dominions).

13. Enemy (Mt. 13:25, 28, 39). He is our opponent. He is God's enemy and our enemy. He knows that he cannot harm God, so he seeks to harm us.

14. Tempter (Mt. 4:3; 1 Th. 3:5). He entices people to sin.

15. Murderer (Jn. 8:44). **John 8:44** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* He causes spiritual, physical, and eternal death. As a result of Satan's lie to Eve, death came to her, Adam, and all people. Cain was of the evil one and murdered his brother Abel (Gen. 4:8; 1 Jn. 3:12).

16. Strong man (Mt. 12:29; Mk. 3:27; Lk. 11:21). Jesus taught that Satan was a "strong man," but He was much stronger and able to overpower him.

17. Liar (Jn. 8:44; Rev. 20:10). He denies, perverts, and opposes truth. He is "the father of lies," the master deceiver. The last Bible reference to Satan describes him as "the devil that deceived them" (Rev. 20:10). Never are we more like the devil than when we lie, and never are we more like Christ than when we speak and represent the truth (Jn. 14:6).

18. Accuser of the brethren (Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10). He opposes believers and tries to bring condemning accusations against them. When we misrepresent the character of a person we are like Satan.

19. Lucifer (Isa. 14:12, morning star, light-bearer; Rev. 9:1, 11). How tragic that the light-bearer became the prince of darkness.

20. Angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). This speaks of his deceptive appearance. Someone observed that Satan is to be avoided as a lion; dreaded as a serpent; but he must be feared most as an angel of light.

21. Angel of the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:11). He is the ruler over demons (evil angels). Just as Michael is the archangel (chief angel) in heaven, so Satan is ruler of the bottomless pit.

22. Anointed cherub (Ezek. 28:14-16). Satan was apparently the highest ranking member of the most privileged angels in heaven. The cherubim understand the holiness of God better than any other creatures because they are so close to Him. Satan went from the highest position to the lowest.

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT SATAN – PART 1

The Reality, Nature, Names and Titles of Satan

The Bible tells us not all angels are good and holy. Scripture reveals the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

The Reality and Nature of Satan

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2. Satan is a _____ (Col. 1:16; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:4-7)
As a created being, Satan is accountable and judged by God (Job 1, 2; Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

3. Satan is a _____ (1 Kgs. 22:21-23; Eph. 2:2)

4. Satan is an _____ (Job 1:7; 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:8)

5. Satan has _____:

A. _____ (Mt. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 2:11)

B. _____ (Rev. 12:12; 1 Tim. 3:6)

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The Names and Titles of Satan

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