



Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 3 – THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

LESSON 70 – LUCIFER: ANGEL OF LIGHT (PART 3) SATAN'S CHARACTER AND CONDEMNATION

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Names and Titles Reveal Satan's Character

- ▶ Abaddon – Rev. 9:11 – this transliterated Hebrew word is usually associated with death and destruction (Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Psa. 88:11; Prov. 15:11; 27:20). The Greek counterpart is Apollyon, and is used to refer to Satan as the angelic king with dominion over demons.
- ▶ Accuser – Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10 – Satan accuses believers before God of being unworthy of grace or forgiveness.
- ▶ Adversary – 1 Peter 5:8 – Satan opposes believers and is portrayed as a hungry lion stalking his prey.
- ▶ Angel of the Bottomless Pit – Rev. 9:11 – Much as Michael is the archangel and chief warrior among the angels, Satan's kingdom is doomed to the bottomless pit.

Names and Titles Reveal Satan's Character

- ▶ Apollyon – Rev. 9:11 – the destroyer, this is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew Abaddon, meaning death and destruction.
- ▶ Beelzebul – Matt. 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 15:11 – Lord of the Demons, named after the Philistine god of the city of Ekron (2 Kings 1:2-3).
- ▶ Belial – 2 Cor. 6:15 – this is a transliterated Hebrew word that refers to a vile, wicked troublemaker (Deut. 13:13; Judges 19:22; 1 Sam. 2:12; 1 Kings 21:13; Prov. 6:12).
- ▶ Devil – Matt. 4:1; Rev. 20:10 – appearing 38 times in the NT and is used of Satan 34 of those times, this term means Slanderer. Satan is a liar in direct opposition to Christ, Who is the truth.

Names and Titles Reveal Satan's Character

- ▶ Dragon – Isa. 27:1; Rev. 12:3, 7, 9; 20:2 – the fully realized monster that originally appeared as a crafty serpent.
- ▶ Enemy – Matt. 13:25, 28, 39 – In several parables, Satan is identified as the enemy of God and His people. The enemy planted tares among the wheat.
- ▶ Evil One – Matt. 5:37; 6:13; 13:19, 38; John 17:15 – the third most used term for Satan, revealing that he stands in direct opposition to righteousness and only means to cause harm.
- ▶ Father of Lies – John 8:44 – The original deceiver, who lies out of his very nature. By contrast, God cannot lie.
- ▶ God of this World – 2 Cor. 4:4 – Satan does have power on earth and does do supernatural works, but he is not divine and always subject to God's sovereign rule.

Names and Titles Reveal Satan's Character

- ▶ King – Rev. 9:11 – relating to his rule and authority over the demons, he is the king and prince of demons.
- ▶ Leviathan – Isa. 27:1 – similar to the term dragon, this denotes the nature of the serpent as a monster or incredible sea creature.
- ▶ Liar – John 8:44 – Satan's message is always built on deceit.
- ▶ Lucifer – Isa. 14:12 – light bearer, or day star, this references the King of Babylon and identifies Satan as one who appears bright in the sky until the sun is fully shining and eclipses the stars.
- ▶ Lying Spirit – 1 Kings 22:22-23; 2 Chron. 18:21-22 – Satan has been used of God several times to convey lies directly to those who are false prophets, ensuring their ability to deceive, and their doom.

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- ▶ Murderer – John 8:44 – Jesus says of Satan that “He was a murderer from the beginning.” His lie and deception brought death to Adam and Eve, and all mankind.
- ▶ Prince of Demons – Matt. 9:34; 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15 – same as Beelzebul.
- ▶ Prince of the Power of the Air – Eph. 2:2 – Satan has authority over demons and they are called “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12) – working on and around the earth.
- ▶ Roaring Lion – 1 Peter 5:8 – seeking his prey like a hungry lion.
- ▶ Ruler of this World – John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 – world here serves in the sense of the world system that opposes God.

Names and Titles Reveal Satan's Character

- ▶ Satan – Matt. 4:10; Rev. 20:7 – this is the most used name or description for Satan (18 times in the OT, 36 in the NT). It means adversary or enemy.
- ▶ Serpent – Gen. 3:1, 4, 13-14; Isa. 27:1; 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9; 20:2 – his first appearance is in the form of a serpent and he is later described as having grown into a great reptilian monster, the dragon.
- ▶ Spirit – 1 Kings 22:21-23; Eph. 2:2 – Satan is a spirit as a being, without physical form or limitations.
- ▶ Star – Rev. 9:1, 11 – all angels are pictured as stars and Satan is said to be a star fallen from heaven.

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- ▶ Strong Man – Matt. 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21 – Jesus asserted that Satan was a “strong man” but that He was stronger and able to overpower him.
- ▶ Tempter – Matt. 4:1, 3; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:2, 13; 1 Cor. 7:5; 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:5 – as a liar and deceiver, Satan works to lure us or bait us into sin (James 1:14) so that we might be trapped or ensnared.

Satan's Condemnation

- ▶ Satan's original judgment immediately followed his attempt to lead one-third of the angels in revolt against God and His rule and reign. He was cast out of heaven and disqualified from serving God honorably. (Rev. 12:3-4, 9; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:4-21).
- ▶ Immediately after the Fall, Satan was cursed in the Garden of Eden to become the enemy of the woman and her Seed (Christ and all those in Him – Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20; John 16:11).
- ▶ At the crucifixion, with the declaration "It is Finished" Christ sealed the fate of Satan and the demons, having crushed his head as His heel was pierced.
- ▶ Revelation 12:8-9 shows us Satan's final banishment during the tribulation.

Satan's Condemnation

- ▶ During the Millennial Reign, Satan will be bound for 1,000 years (Rev. 19:11-21; 20:1-3) as Christ rules without any interference.
- ▶ Satan's eternal judgment will find him and the demons cast into the everlasting lake of fire (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Shortly after he is cast into the fire, all of the lost will be sentenced to join him in everlasting torment at the Great White Throne Judgment (Mark 9:48; Rev. 20:14-15).

Satan is Defeated

- ▶ Satan knows that he is defeated, his time is short, he is under the rule of our Sovereign God, and while this means we are victorious, it also means he is dangerous. Like a wounded animal, seeking to accuse, deceive, and discredit believers, he is intent on our destruction.
- ▶ How do we participate in Christ's victory over our Enemy?
- ▶ James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.