

SATAN

Text: 1 Peter 5:8

INTRO: The Bible teaches the reality of the devil & warns us of his devices. There is much that we might like to know about Satan that is not revealed, but we would do well to familiarize ourselves with what IS revealed so that we may avoid the condemnation that will come to those who follow him.

There are at least 2 passages commonly applied to Satan that do not refer to him at all: Isa. 14:12 (the Lucifer passage, king of Babylon), and Ezek. 28:13-17 (the king of Tyre).

I. SATAN'S ORIGIN.

A. Some brethren & others believe that Satan is an eternal, self-existent being who had no beginning or origin. I believe the evidence is clearly against that theory.

B. I believe the Bible indicates that Satan was created by the Lord.

For by [Christ] all things were created that are in heaven, & that are on earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created thru Him & for Him. (Col. 1:16).

C. I know that he is answerable to the Lord, Gen 3:14; Job 1:6 and limited by the Lord. Job 1:12; 2:6.

1. Satan is a spirit creature & was evidently created to be an angel of God. There is no record of his appearing in human form.

...When the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord... Satan also came among them. (Job 1:6; 2:1).

NOTE: God has "sons" in various categories: by creation like Adam (LK 3:38), by pro-creation like Jesus (LK 1:35; JN 3:16), and by regeneration (JN 3:5; Gal 3:26-27). Satan & the

angels were sons of God by creation like Adam, Luke 3:38.

2. Satan & the angels were evidently created before the creation of the material universe recorded in Genesis 1. READ JOB 38:4-7.

II. WAS SATAN EVIL FROM THE TIME OF HIS ORIGIN?

He who sins is of the devil for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8).

You are of your father the devil, & the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning & does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own resources, for he is a liar & the father of it. (John 8:44).

- A. Some believe that Luke 10:18 refers to the original fall of Satan. "I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven." Compare John 8:58, "Before Abraham was, I am."
- B. Revelation 12:7-12 might be a falshback, but probably more likely is a vision of an event then future.
- C. Jude 6 & 2 Peter 2:4 speak of some angels that fell. It seems very likely to me that Satan was either one of those angels, or that he had fallen first & then led them into sin. At any rate, there are some angels described as his, Matt. 25:41.
- D. At any rate, we suggest that Satan was not created sinful. He was a liar from the beginning of lying, a murder from the beginning of murdering, but he was not a liar until he lied, nor a murderer until he killed. He was created for the purpose of serving Christ, but he did not abide in the truth. He had the power of choice just as we do, & he chose to rebel against God.

III. WE MAY LEARN MUCH ABOUT HIS CHARACTER & NATURE BY THE NAMES OR DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN

HIM IN THE SCRIPTURES.

1. Satan (Aramaic, adversary), MT 4:10.
2. The serpent, Rev. 20:2 (identifying him with Gen. 3:1).
3. The wicked (or evil) one, 1 John 5:18.
4. Your adversary, 1 Peter 5:8.
5. Beelzebub (a Philistine god, 1 Kings 1:2-3), MT 10:25
6. Prince of this world, John 12:31
7. Prince of the power of the air, Eph. 2:2
8. The tempter, Matt. 4:1
9. Belial (worthless), 2 Cor. 6:15
10. The dragon, Rev. 20:2
11. The devil (accuser, slanderer), Gen. 3:3; Job 1:9
12. The god of this world, 2 Cor. 4:4
13. The enemy, Matt. 13:39

NOTE: Taken together, these names & descriptions tell us that Satan is worthless, wicked, extremely influential & dangerous.

IV. SOME OTHER TRAITS OF WHICH WE SHOULD BE AWARE.

- A. Cunning, crafty, sly, a master of deceit. How good is he at what he does? Rom. 3:23.
- B. He has many “wiles”--schemes, methods, strategies. Eph. 6:11; devices, 2 Cor. 2:11
- C. He wants to sift us as wheat, sift out the good, leave only the bad, Luke 22:31.
- D. He would steal God’s word from our hearts, lest we believe & obey it & be saved, Luke 8:12.
- E. He uses false prophets, false teachers to undermine faith in & obedience to the Scriptures of God.
- F. He can & will use us if we are not constantly on guard. He will seek to cause us to become careless in our life-styles, careless in our Bible study, language, etc.

V. THE BIBLE INDICATES THE DESTINY OF SATAN AND OF ALL WHO ARE ULTIMATELY DECEIVED BY HIM.
Matt. 25:41. READ REVELATION 20:10-15.

VI. GOD HAS GIVEN US WHAT IS NECESSARY TO DEFEAT SATAN AT EVERY TURN, BUT WE MUST CONSTANTLY BE ALERT & MAKE USE OF THE ARMOR & WEAPON WITH WHICH GOD HAS PROVIDED US.

READ EPHESIANS 6:11-18. 1 Cor. 10:13; James 4:7

NOTE: You must come out of his kingdom to defeat him. You cannot overcome him on his own ground, Col. 1:13; John 3:3-5; Romans 6:3-5.

La Porte, TX, January 16, 1977

Exton, PA, November 2, 1986

Exton, PA, March 17, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 22, 1991

Washington, NJ, April 10:1992 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 21, 1997

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 8, 2004