

## *Satan the god of this world*

Satan, (the Hebrew term for adversary) also known as the devil, a high ranking angelic creature who, before the creation of the human race, rebelled against the Creator and became the chief antagonist of God and man. The following passages describes Satan's past career as "Lucifer" and as "the Anointed Cherub" in his pre-fall splendor (Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-15).

Many of the modern theologians refused to apply the prophecies of Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-15 to Satan for several reasons:

- Under the argument that are addressed solely to the kings of Babylon and Tyre
- Such interpretation is totally unwarranted since the prophecies fails to take into account
- It ignores the close connection Satan has in the Scripture with the government of the satanic world system (see *Cosmos Diabolicus*).

In their full scope these passages paint Satan's past career as "Lucifer" and as "the Anointed Cherub" in his pre-fall splendor. Lucifer was the most beautiful creature that God has ever created. If he will appear today in his natural beauty, human beings will be attracted and magnetized to him. He does not need to sing to captivate creatures because he was music himself. He was the most intelligent creature that God ever created. Whoever painted the image of the ugly looking Satan with horn and sharp pointed tail had insulted his Creator.

God clothed Lucifer with majesty, glory and honor. Though he was not omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent, he is still the most powerful creature that God has ever created. As the highest ranking honor guard, he was responsible to guard the throne of God. He was created perfect (holy and without sin) until he used his free and choose to become evil. As the high ranking archangel assigned to guard the throne of God, Lucifer was a showcase of God's grace and glory which was denied by his arrogance and ambition to dethrone God. Satan is the author of rebellion, insurrection, and uprising.

These passages also portrays Lucifer's apostasy in drawing with him a great multitude of lesser celestial creatures (Rev. 12:4), making him "the Evil One" or "the Tempter."

Lucifer wanted the power and authority of God (Isaiah 14:14b) but not the responsibility since he cannot function as God. Satan is the author of rebellion against all legitimate authority. These fallen angels (demons) are classified into two classes.

- The free angels roam the universe with their prince-leader Satan (Matt. 12:24) and as his emissaries are so numerous as to make Satan's power practically ubiquitous.
  - Those at the courtroom of God (Job 1:6, 2:1, Zech. 3:1)
  - Those who are on earth (1 Tim. 4:1)
- The angels (demons) that are bound are evidently guilty of more heinous wickedness and are incarcerated in Tartarus (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6, Genesis 6:1-4).

Satan caused the fall of the human race as "the Serpent" (the deceiver Genesis 3). His judgment was predicted in Eden (vs. 15), and was accomplished at the cross (John 12:13-33). As created, his power was secondary only to God (Ezek. 28:11-16). He is limited by himself, and restricted by the divine sovereignty. Satan is never omniscient or omnipotent in any way, and he cannot be in two places at the time, for he is not omnipresent. His actions toward the children of God is limited and restricted by the sovereignty of God (Job 1:12, 2:6). He has no power to take their live.

Satan's present work is widespread and destructive. God permits his evil activity for the time being. Demons must do Satan's bidding. The unsaved are largely under Satan's authority, and he rules them through the evil world system over which he is head and of which the unregenerate are a part (Isaiah. 14:12-17; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:2; Col. 1:13).

Satan became the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) after Adam deliberately surrendered his dominion in the world when he sinned and died spiritually (Gen. 3:3). God assigned Adam as the legitimate ruler of the world, of which privileges and responsibility he rejected when he chose the satanic will instead of the divine will.

God exiled Satan in the planet earth because of the angelic conflict. The angelic conflict involved the rebellion of Lucifer against God and was found guilty and sentenced to the Lake of Fire but demanded an appeal trial.

Satan accused God of injustice for sentencing him to the Lake of Fire. God accepted his appeal to prove the perfection of his work and character. The entire human history is part of the angelic conflict, as an evidence of divine righteousness and justice. Christians are exhibits of God's grace. Although Satan lose after Christ won His strategic victory at the cross (Col. 2:15), he continues to reign as a usurper (2 Cor. 4:4), and works in tempting and accusing men (Rev. 12:10), he is to be ousted from the heaven (vs. 7-12) as well as the earth (5:1-19:16), and is to be confined to the abyss for a thousand years (20:1-3).

When released from the abyss at the end of the thousand years, he will make one last mad attempt to lead his armies against God (Rev. 20:8-9). This will result in his final doom when he is cast into the Lake of Fire (vs. 10), which has been prepared for him and his wicked angelic accomplices (Matt. 25:41). This will be the one place where evil angels and unsaved men will be kept and quarantined so that the rest of God's sinless universe will not be corrupted in the eternal state.

The present activities of Satan are:

- Possession of unbelievers
- Obsession (demonic influence) of believers
- Stealing the Word of God (Mat. 13:19)
- Blinding the minds (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Disguises or masquerade the truth (2 Cor. 11:14)
- Fighting the saints (Eph. 6:12)
- Accusing the believers in the court of heaven (Rev. 12:10)

Satan is a defeated enemy, condemned and doomed. He is a real enemy that you cannot just ignore around since he desires nothing but your destruction and spiritual defeat. Our God's given weapon against the devil is the Bible doctrine stored and resident in the souls of the believer (Eph. 6:17). Nobody is capable of fighting the devil with human power, resources, power or man-made weapons (Eph. 6:12). We can only destroy speculations (2 Cor. 10:5) with Bible doctrine. Speculations are human viewpoint expresses in myths, superstitious, human philosophy, man-made religious teachings, and demonic doctrines circulated in the world by various satanic advocates. Bible doctrine must replace this garbage long dumped into your souls.

Basic information about the opposing kingdom of darkness as well as the strategies and methods employed by Satan to deceive, harm and control people (Eph. 6:12). Beyond the world of physical phenomena is the real world – the unseen world – from which great and decisive influences emanate, with an impact on the lives of all people. Since humans have not only a body and a soul, but also a spirit, they are conscious of the spirit world and receptive to communication from it.

The immense importance of spiritual influences necessitates a sound knowledge of spiritual realities. Even if people wish to ignore these realities they are nonetheless profoundly affected by them. The two great realities in the spirit world are the kingdom of God, which is the kingdom of light, and the kingdom of Satan, which is the kingdom of darkness.

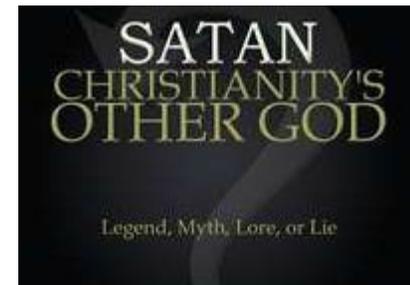
These two kingdoms are diametrically opposed to one another, both competing and contending for the souls of all people. Both have long been established on earth, neither is yet outwardly identifiable as such, though will become so when their respective 'kings' emerge on to the world stage. The kingdom of Satan will come to a head visibly when its coming king, the Antichrist, appears and asserts himself to achieve global control of the world for a short period. His disastrous reign will end with the visible appearance of Jesus, the true Christ, upon earth to destroy the Antichrist and his kingdom of Satan and to set up in its place His millennial kingdom of God as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 11:15; 19:6).

All the people of God are engaged in a continual, deadly struggle against Satan who is the great adversary of God and His people. It is of crucial importance that we understand the principles and strategies of Satan's kingdom in order to prevail in the struggle. The spiritual battle against the evil forces of Satan is a very real one, and it will intensify as we approach the end of this dispensation. This fact confronts us with the responsibility of thoroughly understanding the objectives and methods of the enemy. There are different spheres in which this struggle is being waged. The most important battlefield is in the arena of human lives that were created in the image of God. Satan's attacks on the kingdom of light are aimed at dethroning God and enthroning himself as the ruler of the universe.

In the process he aims at controlling all people, spirit, soul and body, and at being worshipped by them as if he were God. There are various forms and degrees of influence and control that Satan exercises over people, and his final objective is to further expand this control (1 Jn. 5:19). God has undisputed sovereignty in the universe and in His eternal counsels decided to give humanity the authority to subdue the earth and have dominion over it (Gen. 1:28). By yielding to Satan's temptation in the Garden of Eden and disobeying God, our first parents died spiritually and became subservient to another god – the devil. In this way the devil and his fallen angels became "the rulers of the darkness of this world".

Fallen humanity was now confronted by two kingdoms namely the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. A free will to decide for themselves to which kingdom they want to belong would be the deciding factor whether spiritual light or darkness would prevail on the earth, or specific parts of it. The sinful inclinations and unrepentant hearts of the majority of people are the reasons why believers everywhere find themselves in sins (Phil. 2:15). By deliberately living in darkness and sin, the great majority of people are the objects of God's wrath (Jn. 3:19).

The majority support that the kingdom of darkness enjoys on earth is the reason why the Bible refers to "this present evil world" from which God wants to deliver us (Gal. 1:4). The large masses that tread the broad way that leads to hell are those "in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not" (2 Cor. 4:4). The god of this dark world is Satan. In John 14:30 Jesus refers to him as "the prince of this world." But Satan does not rule over Christians since he has been dethroned in their lives (1 Jn. 3:8). Believers are nevertheless engaged in the fierce battle that is being waged by Satan against the kingdom of light (Eph. 6:11).



## SATAN: THE god OF THIS WORLD

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