
The Doctrine of Angels

Satan

Various Passages

*“ He who does what is sinful is of the devil,
because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.
The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”*

~ 1 John 3:8

In his opening to his book You Adversary the Devil, Dwight Pentecost notes:

“ No military commander could expect to be victorious in battle unless he understood his enemy. Should he prepare for an attack by land and ignore the possibility that the enemy might approach by air or by sea, he would open the way to defeat. Or should he prepare for a land and sea attack and ignore the possibility of an attack through the air, he would certainly jeopardize the campaign.

... If we are going to be victorious in the warfare into which we were thrust the moment we accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour, we need to understand that large body of Scripture that reveals to us the person and the work of the one with whom we are at war.”¹

As I noted last week, this series is a pause between biblical studies. In these breaks we review some of the basic doctrines of the church. In this three-part series we are looking at the doctrine of angels.

Today’s study is the second of three parts. This morning we will look at “Satan.” Next week we will review “Satan’s Fallen Angels.” As with all of these studies, they are more in the nature of surveys or introductions to the subjects as opposed to in-depth examinations.

As noted last time, my primarily source for this series is Through the Bible in One Year.² Other books you might want to refer to include Harold Lindsell’s The World, The Flesh, & The Devil, and Donald Grey Barnhouse’s, The Invisible War.

I Introduction: Here I am going to quote from Stringfellow’s own introduction:

“ The subject of Satan and the fallen angels appears prominently in Scripture. The Scriptures reveal Satan and his angels as a personal, corruptive and evil force in the affairs of man.

Satan and the fallen angels should be studied as one subject because they were one in their rejection of God. If Satan had never become Satan, there would have been no fallen angels (demons).

This sinister force is revealed to us progressively in Scripture, becoming more numerous and more defined as the prophecies of Christ are given—and as He appears as the Incarnate Christ. The battle between Christ and Satan started back in Genesis 3:15 and continues to this day.”³

Even today among many who would call themselves Christians or Jews, there is no belief in an entity called Satan. They would simply say he is the symbol of evil and a “mythical” figure.

¹ Pentecost, J. Dwight, Your Adversary The Devil, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1969, p. 9.

² Stringfellow, Alan B., ed., Through the Bible in One Year, Vol. 3, Great Truths of the Bible, Copyright © 1981 by Virgil W. Hensley, Inc., Publisher, Tulsa, OK, p. 73-91.

³ Ibid, p. 81.

This of course is one of Satan's greatest strengths, the disbelief in his very existence, and another being assigned more power than he actually has. So let us move on.

II The Origin of Satan: Satan stands unique among the created beings. As we noted last week, the angels were God's creation, prior to the creation of mankind. And Satan was certainly created as part of that august body.

A The Creation of Satan: In fact we are told he was the greatest of all the angelic beings. It was for this reason he was named Lucifer, son of the morning, meaning "day star, light bearer."

"You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:19).

"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12).

B The Lucifer before his fall: Since Lucifer was the greatest of angels, it is obvious at one time he was unfallen. We read in Ezekiel of his pre-fallen state.

"Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you"'" (Ezekiel 28:12-15).

As we can see from this passage, Lucifer was perfect until the day he fell. We are told he overlooked the throne of God as one of the cherubs. Pentecost notes:

"Lucifer was first of all, the wisest of all of God's created beings. God had established him as administrator of the affairs of the angelic realm. Although all authority resided in the throne of God, He had delegated certain administrative authorities to Lucifer. God had prepared him by creation for the discharge of those functions.

*... (Lucifer) was one of the cherubs that could look upon the throne of God and could voice praise and thanksgiving, adoration and worship to God because He was a holy God. Now if we were to try to assign positions to the different orders of angels we would conclude that the cherubim who could stand and look Godward, or minister throneward occupied the highest position of all and had the greatest privilege of any created being. It was over such a privileged class of angels that Lucifer was placed in authority by Divine appointment."*⁴

When we take this into consideration, we realize how sad it is that Lucifer made the choices he did, how much he lost, and why he is so twisted, with only destruction on his mind.

C The Fallen Satan: Not a lot is said regarding Lucifer's fall. We know he fell because of pride, wanting to be as God. What we don't really know is how this could happen. But the pride is obvious. We read Satan's "I will" statements in Isaiah 14:13-14.

⁴ Pentecost, p. 12 & 15.

“You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.””

This is the sin of Satan, and as a result of the fall, the sin of humanity, “I will.” This is the Shirley McLain type of thinking. Men, just as Satan, want to be their own gods, “I will.” Even we, when struggling against the will of God, find ourselves saying, “I will.” And so sin began in the “heart” of Satan when he said, “I will.”

There is an obvious question here. Why did God permit Satan to fall? But to this question I believe there is no complete answer, or at least God has not chosen to provide to us with one. Again quoting Pentecost:

“I believe that no man can ever grasp why God permitted Satan to fall. But Scripture records the fact that the wisest, the most beautiful of God’s created beings looked away from the Creator to himself. He failed to recognize that all he was and all he had came as a gracious bestowment from the hand of the Creator to whom he was responsible. In turning away from God, he turned to himself and became an essentially selfish being.”⁵

And as a result of his sin, Lucifer became Satan and fell by the hand of God. He has been and will be judged.

“Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones” (Ezekiel 26:16).

“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!” (Isaiah 14:12).

D The Names & Titles Satan:

1. Satan, which means “Adversary:”

“Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do” (1 Chronicles 21:1).

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

2. Devil, the “Slanderer:”

“The great dragon was hurled down—... Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him” (Revelation 12:9).

3. That Old Serpent:

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” (Genesis 3:15).

⁵ Ibid., p. 18.

“The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil” (Revelation 12:9).

4. God of this World:

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

5. Accuser of the Brethren:

“For the accuser of our brothers ... has been hurled down” (Revelation 12:10).

6. Father of Lies:

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

Other names included: Beelzebub, the “Prince of Demons,” (Matthew 12:24); Belial, the “Low One,” (2 Corinthians 6:15); Prince of this World, (John 12:31); Prince of the Power of the Air, (Ephesians 2:2); Dragon, (Revelation 20:2); Angel of Light, and (2 Corinthians 11:14).

E The Sphere of Satan’s Activity:

1. God’s throne:

“One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them” (Job 1:6).

“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down” (Revelation 12:10).

2. The Earth:

“The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it”” (Job 1:7).

“Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel” (1 Chronicles 21:1).

“... in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient” ... “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 2:2, 6:12).

F What Satan Does:

1. Tempts: The most familiar passage presents Satan's tempting of Christ.

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, ‘It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him” (Matthew 4:1-11).

2. Deceives:

“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path” (Matthew 13:19).

“... that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will” (2 Timothy 2:26).

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes” (Ephesians 6:11).

3. Hinders the Work of God: To which I would add, only as God allows.

“For we wanted to come to you — certainly I, Paul, did, again and again — but Satan stopped us” (1 Thessalonians 2:18).

“... in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me” (2 Corinthians 2:11, 12:7).

“The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels” (Matthew 13:38-39).

It is vital that when we speak of Satan that we recognize his limitations. After all, as we noted at the beginning of this study, his strength comes from people either not believing in him or holding him as an equal to God, and that in the battle between good and evil the outcome is not foreordained.

G Satan's Limitations:

1. He is Not Omnipotent. Stringfellow notes:

*“Satan cannot force people to sin. He can tempt, coerce, entice, but he has no power to force transgression.”*⁶

“The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life”” (Job 2:6).

2. He is Not Omniscient. Again quoting Stringfellow:

*“Satan is wised, but not as wise as God; he is not all knowing. He knows the ones to attack, hurt and afflict.”*⁷

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat” (Luke 22:31).

3. He is Not Omnipresent:

“Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him” (Matthew 4:11).

III Conclusion: Satan is our enemy, but he has been defeated. Even when he afflicts us, it is only as God allows. We do not need to be afraid. But the source of our courage and power is to focus and depend on God rather than giving our attention to the enemy.

He who was once the most beautiful of God's angels has become the ugliest of creatures. While he still may appear as an angel of light, this is simply an illusion. If we see Satan for who he is and God for who He is, we will never fear and we will have victory.

“Satan, you're ugly!...hideously ugly!...repulsively ugly! As you once became a blot on the landscape of heaven, now you are an eyesore on planet earth; even the lake of fire will be more odious because of your loathsome presence there.

“Satan, you are more graceless than any of God's creatures, more unseemly, more uncomely, more unlovely than any other created being, because you have fallen the farthest, sinning against the greatest light.

“Satan, you are ugly in your perverted person, in your putrid purpose, and in your pernicious performances. This is said, not on human authority, but on the rebuking authority of the Word of God, and believers in Jesus Christ will overcome you by the Word of God and the blood of the Lamb.”

The exhortation is to overcome Satan's deception with divine truth, to overcome his distortion with Christ-like goodness, and to overcome his despicability with divine beauty radiating through one's life, or in the words of the psalmist, “Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us” (Ps 90:17).⁸

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air,

⁶ Stringfellow, p. 85.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Lindsey, F. Duane, “Essays Toward A Theology of Beauty—Part II:Satan is Ugly, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Volume 131, #523—Jul y-September, 1974, p. 218-219.

the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:1-10).

The Doctrine of Angels

Satan

Various Passages

I Introduction: (*1 John 3:8*)

II The Origin of Satan:

A The _____ of Satan:
(*Ezekiel 28:19; Isaiah 14:12*)

B The _____ Lucifer:
(*Ezekiel 28:12-15*)

C The _____ Satan:
(*Isaiah 14:13-14; Ezekiel 26:16; Isaiah 14:12*)

D The _____ & _____ Satan:

1. (*1 Chronicles 21:1; 1 Peter 5:8*)
2. (*Revelation 12:9*)
3. (*Genesis 3:15; Revelation 12:9*)

4. *(2 Corinthians 4:4)*

5. *(Revelation 12:10)*

6. *(John 8:44)*

Other names included: Beelzebub, the “Prince of Demons,” (Matthew 12:24); Belial, the “Low One,” (2 Corinthians 6:15); Prince of this World, (John 12:31); Prince of the Power of the Air, (Ephesians 2:2); Dragon, (Revelation 20:2); Angel of Light, and (2 Corinthians 11:14).

D The _____ of Satan’s _____:

1. *(Job 1:6; Revelation 12:10)*

2. *(Job 1:7; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Ephesians 2:2, 6:12)*

E What Satan _____:

1. *(Matthew 4:1-11)*

2. *(Matthew 13:19; 2 Timothy 2:26; Ephesians 6:11)*

3. *(1 Thessalonians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 2:11, 12:7; Matthew 13:38-39)*

F Satan’s Limitations:

1. He is Not _____. *(Job 2:6)*

2. He is Not _____. *(1 Peter 5:8)*

3. He is Not _____. *(Matthew 4:11)*

III Conclusion: *(Ephesians 2:1-10)*