

Satan, Spirit Being With Many Names

Bible Studies, Volume 22

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Introduction

The influence Satan has had over this world for the last approximately six thousand can never be under estimated. It was him who persuaded Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Therefore, by this deception he is responsible for the first sin against God and for all sins ever since.

I think the first thing I must stress to all readers of this book is this. Satan is a created being. Therefore, even though he has some amazing powers, they are vastly inferior to the power of God. Read Eze 28:12-15 to see how he was created and the beauty he possessed. Then his fall from grace as pride of his beauty overpowered him and then his disgrace and expulsion from “The Mount of God”. The one thing we can take from this is that God has always been in complete control, still is today, and always will be.

Eze 28:12 "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 seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Eze 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

Eze 28:14 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.

Eze 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

Eze 28:16 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, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

It is important we understand the way Satan operates in this world to deceive us and draw us away from God. We are always in a spiritual war with an enemy we cannot see. So we must learn about our enemy and use the tactics God has given us to fight this war.

The Bible that I have chosen to use for references in this book is the “World English Bible” (WEB). If you have a different version of the bible that is perfectly OK. The wording may be different, but I am sure you will find the meaning of the verses to be the same.

I pray that our amazing God will lead you into truth from His word, The Holy Bible. Please read the following scripture from the book of John and think on the true meaning of this verse.

2Ti 3:16 Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness,

All scripture means both the old and the new testaments. Remember that the only scriptures that were available to Jesus and His disciples were those contained in the old testament. It was the Apostles that wrote the books of the new testament. The Bible as we know it today was not developed until many years after the Apostles had all departed this world.

Who Is Satan

In this modern day and age, is it practical to believe in Satan? or has he been relegated to history and plays no part in the affairs of the world? This question needs to be addressed, because many people no longer believe he exists. And those who may believe he exists do not see him as any sort of a threat to their welfare.

The bible is very clear when it comes to whether Satan exists or not. He has been identified by several names such as the enemy of mankind.

Gen 3:15 I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.”

Satan is the father of lies.

Joh 8:44 You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn't stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

He is also the accuser of God's people.

Rev 12:10 I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ has come; for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

The name Satan means adversary, and the following scriptures describe who he was originally. An angelic being who wanted no more than to overthrow God from His heavenly throne. He wanted the honour and worship that only belongs to God. He wanted everything and everyone to bow down to him.

Isa 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, shining one, son of the dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, who laid the nations low!

Isa 14:13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend into heaven! I will exalt my throne above the stars of God! I will sit on the mountain of assembly, in the far north!

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds! I will make myself like the Most High!"

Isa 14:15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the pit.

Isa 14:16 Those who see you will stare at you. They will ponder you, saying, "Is this the man who made the earth to tremble, who shook kingdoms;

Isa 14:17 who made the world like a wilderness, and overthrew its cities; who didn't release his prisoners to their home?"

The prophet Ezekiel also comments on Satan. He first describes him as a being of great beauty who was perfect until the unrighteousness of pride was found in him, and he was corrupted by his own beauty.

Eze 28:12 “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and tell him, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “You were the seal of full measure, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

Eze 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz, emerald, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and beryl. Gold work of tambourines and of pipes was in you. They were prepared in the day that you were created.

Eze 28:14 You were the anointed cherub who covers. Then I set you up on the holy mountain of God. You have walked up and down in the middle of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:15 You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.

Eze 28:16 By the abundance of your commerce, your insides were filled with violence, and you have sinned. Therefore I have cast you as profane out of God’s mountain. I have destroyed you, covering cherub, from the middle of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty. You have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I have cast you to the ground. I have laid you before kings, that they may see you.

From the time Satan was thrown out of heaven, along with his band of demons who chose to follow him, he has attempted to oppose God in everything and to lead people into rebellion against God.

Satan has some authority over this world, but only because God has given it to him. And this is why he is also referred to as “the god of this world”

2Co 4:4 in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the Good News of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn on them.

It is amazing how Satan, the “father of lies”, even tries to have us believe he is powerless and he will have us believe he is an angel of light as we see in 2Co 11:14.

2Co_11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 It is no great thing therefore if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

One of the biggest ways he brings havoc to us is via deception. If we do not see him as any sort of a threat, there is no reason to fear him and we are blinded to the ways he is bringing troubles into our lives.

He is very subtle and convincing. Look at how he deceived Adam and Eve into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Even though God had told Adam very clearly that to eat of this tree was to surely die. But Satan told Eve that if she ate of the tree she would not die but would have knowledge of good and evil. Unfortunately Eve fell for this lie, So when they allowed Satan to influence them, they disobeyed God and ever since that time mankind has suffered at the hands of Satan and the lies he has us believe.

Satan has authority over those who are in Christ only when they give in to him and believe his lies. But we have the promise from God that Satan will be defeated and all his evil works will be destroyed.

1Jn 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.

This is reinforced in the words from Joh12:31. Here we can see Jesus has triumphed over Satan by His sacrifice on the cross.

Joh 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world. Now the prince of this world will be cast out.

It is amazing how much misinformation about our adversary comes to us from the movie theatres. This is man's imaginations and no doubt influenced by Satan himself. This is why it is vital we seek the truth about him from the only reliable source of information that we can fully trust. The holy bible.

Satan has certain powers but they are infinitely less powerful than that of our Almighty God. We are informed in Jas 4:7 that the way to defeat Satan is to resist him by submitting ourselves to God. This verse also informs us what Satan will do if we submit ourselves to God. He will flee from us.

Jas 4:7 Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Satan will continue to influence this world with his evil ways until Jesus returns in all power and glory. When He returns we see Satan bound with a great chain and cast into the abyss. One thing to notice here is that it is not Jesus Himself who casts Satan into the abyss. No, it is an angel of God. So we can see here that Satan's power is overcome by an angel.

Rev 20:1 I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole inhabited earth, and bound him for a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were finished. After this, he must be freed for a short time.

Satan is known by several other names, such as “The Devil” or “The Evil One” or “The Prince Of The Power Of The Air”. So, when you add them all up he is mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. So he exists, but how can he influence, or be a threat to anyone?

Satan has always been active in the world trying to influence us to sin and to draw us away from God. One of his names is “The Prince Of The Power Of The Air”. And just like we can hear things sent out on radio waves. Satan can broadcast his attitude to anyone who is vulnerable to his thoughts because they do not have God in their lives, The Devil is “Prince of the power of the air” and those he influence are the disobedient as we can see in Eph 2:2.

Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience;

These disobedient are being influenced by Satan to carry out his wishes and to commit every sin possible and murder is just one on the list as we can see in.

Joh 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. 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.

Therefore it is imperative we know how to resist this evil spirit and the attitudes he broadcasts through the air. We are given the knowledge on how to fight him in Eph 6:10-17.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Eph 6:12 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.

Eph 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Eph 6:15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Eph 6:16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Eph 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

All of these pieces of armour that we need to protect us from Satan is in fact as we are told in verse 17, the word of God. To fight against our spiritual enemies that we cannot see we must spend time studying God's words in His Bible.

We must learn all we can about our God and how He wants us to live. Overcome the powers of the Devil with the powers of Almighty God. The more we study God's holy scriptures the stronger our faith will become, and it is our faith that will give us the victory over Satan.

1Jn 5:4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

In the book of 1Peter we are given instructions on how to defeat Satan. We are told it will not be easy and we may have to suffer for a short time. But this suffering is not something new and is experienced by almost all Christians.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

1Pe 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1Pe 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1Pe 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1Pe 5:11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

All sin has its origins in Satan.

1Jn 3:8 The one 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.

It is Satan's plan to be worshipped. He even had the audacity to try to tempt Jesus to worship him. This is covered in more detail in the chapter "The Temptation of Jesus Christ". Jesus rebuked Satan with the following words. "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

This pride that is a major characteristic of Satan is the opposite of our Lord's character. Jesus came as a human and was humble. Even though He had much greater power than Satan, He was content with being in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!". The contrast between Jesus and Satan could not be greater.

Most people who do believe in Satan only see him as the devil in charge of a place called Hell. But as we saw earlier, he is roaming the world looking for ways to distract us from our Saviour Jesus Christ. This place called Hell has a very definite purpose as we can see in:-

Mat 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Satan is usually pictured as a red and fiery beast. Ugly and terrifying to look at. Not the sort of figure you would want to be seen with. But Satan and his band of demons are normally portraying themselves as apostles of Christ, as this is the best way to influence members of the human race. He tries to look good so he can lead us away from the truth of God.

2Co 11:13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

To get a better understanding of who Satan is and his nature, let us now look at some of the other names he has been given that will help us identify his personality and the evilness of his character.

Satan's Other Names

Satan has many names throughout the bible so it is necessary to know these names as they will give you more information about the character of Satan. Notice the first two names were given to him before he became filled with pride because of his great beauty.

After his change we start to see the true character of Satan as he is today. And it is not at all flattering. He is evil, a murderer, and a liar apart from other descriptions of him. We can learn a lot about Satan just from his names and what we learn is he will stop at nothing to get what he wants. The good news is, Jesus will have one of His angels remove him and cast him into the abyss. So some of the other names for Satan are listed below.

Morning Star.

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

Anointed Cherub.

Eze 28:14 You were the anointed cherub who covers. Then I set you up on the holy mountain of God. You have walked up and down in the middle of the stones of fire

Satan.

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

the Accuser of Our Brothers.

Rev 12:10 I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ has come; for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

The Devil.

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

The Evil One.

2Th_3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

The Tempter.

Mat 4:3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Prince of Demons.

Mat_9:34 But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

The Enemy.

Mat 13:39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

The Father of Lies, Liar, Murderer.

Joh 8:44 You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn't stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

God of This World.

2Co 4:4 in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the Good News of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn on them.

Angel of Light.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light.

Prince of the World.

Joh 14:30 I will no more speak much with you, for the prince of the world comes, and he has nothing in me.

Belial.

2Co 6:15 What agreement has Christ with Belial? Or what portion has a believer with an unbeliever?

Prince of the Power of the Air.

Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience;

Your Adversary, A Roaring Lion.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

the Angel of the Abyss.

Rev 9:11 They have over them as king the angel of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is "Abaddon", but in Greek, he has the name "Apollyon".

The Great Dragon, The Old Serpent, The Deceiver of the Whole World.

Rev 12:9 The great dragon was thrown down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

From these titles given to Satan, we can see his character being exposed. He is active in this world today so now we must ask the question. "How do we

overcome Satan and his lies? We have already read we must put on the full armour of God to protect ourselves. But we also have more advice and that is from:-

Rev 12:11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

To triumph over him by the blood of the Lamb simply means to be a follower of Jesus, to live by His laws and the resist Satan at all costs. This means to remain faithful even in the face of death. It is better to die in faith, than to give in to Satan and end up with him and his demons in the eternal fire.

In the following chapters, I will explain some of the tactics Satan has used in the past and that he may use again in the future to overcome God's plan.

Satan is Targetting Man's Free Will

One of the greatest blessings God has given to mankind is also the one that Satan will use to attack us and to draw us away from our God. From the very beginning, God gave Adam and Eve free will to make their own choices. So when the serpent told Eve she could eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and not die, she believed him and made her own choice to eat of the forbidden fruit. Yes, Satan tempted her, but in the end she ate of the fruit, and so did Adam. It was their own free will to do this.

God could have prevented this from happening, but then their free wills would have been taken away from them. They would have been forced to comply with God's wishes. But God did not intervene because He wants all people to come to Him, to love, worship and to obey Him of their own choosing. He will force none of us to do what is right. We make that decision for ourselves, exactly the same way Adam and Eve had to make their own decisions.

Obviously, having this same free will is going to leave us open to make mistakes the same way Adam and Eve did. But God will have it no other way. If He set up and forced us to live within certain boundaries that we must comply with, then He would have just created another herd of cows, sheep, goats or any other animal He created. Each living by certain laws God created for their particular type of animal. Each after its own kind as recorded for us in.

Gen 1:25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Let us take one example from the animal world. Sheep can only do what all sheep do. They cannot do any of the amazing things God created humans to do. They have a very set way to live and have no free will to change their circumstances. And as Gen 1:25 tells us, each will behave according to its kind. It is only humans

who have this amazing free will that allows us to pursue different things in our lives.

This is why we have so many varying ways to earn a living. We can choose to be farmers, builders, mechanics or even astronauts. The decisions are almost endless whereas for animals they have no choice but to be the way God created them.

So how does Satan use our free will against us?

The first thing to keep in mind is that Satan is not only very real, but he also has great power. Unfortunately, many people do not think he is real, or that he may have some sort of sway over their lives. They see him as powerless and unable to influence anyone. This is exactly what he wants us to believe. If we do not see him as a threat, he can continue to draw us away from God without our even being aware of his presence. But he is real and wants nothing more than to corrupt humans. Read about his presence and his plan in the following words from God's Bible.

Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

1Pe 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

In these two verses, we plainly see two very important details. First, Satan roams over the entire earth, and second, he is looking for people to devour. This means people to corrupt and draw away from God. So now let us look at how he does this.

Satan certainly understands the enormous power contained within our "free will". He used his own free will when he and his demons first rebelled against God. His pride made him make the wrong decisions and now he is determined to take over God's throne.

In this current time, we face an enormous amount of distractions designed to draw us away from God. I will name but a few here and leave you to add whatever you like.

Lets us start with football in all of its different formats, soccer, grid iron and Aussie rules. How many people would much rather watch one of these sports, whether in person or on the television, than to attend a Sabbath service or study the Bible? The number would be in the multiple millions, and I dare to suggest it will actually be in the billions. All we need do here is to look at the recent soccer world cup. Watched by millions around the world. Now consider how many other sports will accomplish Satan's task of drawing people away from God. Every sport has its own band of regular followers who "religiously" follow their teams.

Please note here that I am not advocating that all sport is wrong. It is only wrong if it consumes all of your spare time and leaves no time for God. Sport is a healthy pastime, but it should never interfere with your time with God. Nor am I saying you should study the word of God every spare hour you have. You need to strike a healthy balance between the two. But your time with God should always be more important to you than anything else.

Next, we need to see how many of us will be distracted through our work. This one is a bit more difficult, as some are forced to work long hours just to survive. Finding time for God is not so easy when your family depends on your income so much. But there are many others who work long hours simply for the money, and for what it can buy for their own pleasures. Not to help others who may be in need, but to spend their more on their own desires. There are many people who would rather be at work than try to get to know their God.

In this modern age, we have one of the greatest distractions of all. The one we call "social media". This one is anything but social and is one area where there is an inordinate amount of evil. The poisonous comments left on other peoples face book pages are shocking, and there are many people who spend most of their days trolling these pages to find someone to disagree with.

The Internet is a fantastic place to find just about any information you want to broaden your mind. But again, people waste their time as they search for the wrong things.

Even church will draw people away from God. This may sound like a contradiction, but there are churches who teach heresy and the teaching of men rather than the word of God. Satan is more than happy to use this as a distraction from the truth.

Satan will do whatever it takes to entice you away from God and the amazing reward you will get if you stay loyal to Him. He is even happy to look like he is a religious leader as long as he can inject heresy and false teachings along the way. We are instructed to resist the devil, and the only way we can do this is by seeking knowledge and understanding from the scriptures. There is no other way.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

Rom 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from God's love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We all have our own free will for how we will spend our time. It is our choice to watch sport, work harder than we should just to earn more money. We can spend hours every day on computers to find someone we can disagree with and leave evil comments on their pages. Or we can use any spare time to get to know God from His written word, the Bible.

This is a decision we must all make for ourselves. I sincerely hope you choose to spend time in God's words. There is a great deal to learn, so do not be discouraged, but learn a little every day and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Satan's Plan

Satan, Lucifer or the Devil, whatever name we may give him, has been trying to frustrate the plan of God from the very beginning. He has tried to do this, and he is still trying to accomplish his plans every minute of every day in the lives of God's children. I would like to look at some of these attempts, so we can see his failures and be certain that even though he has influence over much of the world, he can only do what God allows him to do and no more.

Many people do not realize that Satan travels between Heaven and the Earth. He has had this ability from the time he was created. But the day is coming, and maybe not that far away, when he will be kicked out of Heaven totally and never be able to return.

The book of Job makes it very clear that Satan can actually do this. This book also reveals to us that he can do no more than what God allows him to do. We know from the story of Job that Satan had to get permission from God to bring troubles to Job. Satan accused Job of only being loyal to God because God had given him so many blessings. God knew better than this so He allowed Satan to bring many disasters on Job in an attempt to make him curse God. We also learn from this book that he could do only what God allowed. This proves to us that God has the ultimate power and Satan is restricted in everything he does.

We can read the story of Job and see how Satan can do nothing without God's permission. Job 1:6-12 explains this very well.

Job 1:6 Now on the day when God's sons came to present themselves before Yahweh, Satan also came among them.

Job 1:7 Yahweh said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered Yahweh, and said, "From going back and forth in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

Job 1:8 Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant, Job? For there is no one like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one who fears God, and turns away from evil."

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered Yahweh, and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

Job 1:10 Haven't you made a hedge around him, and around his house, and around all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:11 But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will renounce you to your face."

Job 1:12 Yahweh said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power. Only on himself don't stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh.

We know that Satan then went out and took everything that Job had including all of his livestock and even had Job's children killed, so Job was left with nothing, everything he owned was taken away from him, this must have been a very low point in Job's life, and he was wondering why these calamities had come upon him. But no harm came to Job himself.

Even with everything that Job held dear was taken away from him, he never cursed God or spoke a careless word against Him.

Then Satan came before God again and claimed that Job would curse God, if he was personally afflicted. So God gave Satan permission to bring troubles onto Job personally, to try to make him curse God. But he was not given the power to kill Job, only to cause him as much grief as he could. We see this in Job 2:6-10:

Job 2:6 Yahweh said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand. Only spare his life."

Job 2:7 So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh, and struck Job with painful sores from the sole of his foot to his head.

Job 2:8 He took for himself a potsherd to scrape himself with, and he sat among the ashes.

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still maintain your integrity? Renounce God, and die."

Job 2:10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job didn't sin with his lips.

I don't think we can imagine the pain and suffering Job went through as Satan inflicted as much physical and emotion pain as he could. Job lost all his livestock, his children and now his health. But he still refused to curse God. So Satan failed in what he was trying to accomplish with Job. He could not do any more to Job than what God allowed. His powers to harm Job were restricted, and it is still the same today in everything. Satan is permitted just so much power and influence over the world, but no more. Ultimately, God is in control.

We can all learn from Job's experience. It does not matter how bad things may get, we must remain faithful to God and always remember that Satan's powers are limited. Jesus has defeated Satan by His death and resurrection, and it is now just a matter of time before Jesus returns and has Satan bound and thrown into the abyss where he can no longer influence mankind.

Satan The father Of Lies

T rue Christians who are prepared to read and study their Bibles know that Satan has a lot of influence over this world, and he is making things as difficult as possible for those who follow Christ.

There are many fictional characters in the world, some presumably that do good deeds like Superman, Wonder Woman, and Spider Man. Then there are the villains of the peace such as The Penguin, The Joker and Lex Luthor. Some people around the world base their lives around these make believe characters, and even though they know they are not real characters, they are still influenced by their heroes.

The sad thing is that we have Satan, The father of all lies, who most people in the world (adults included and maybe even especially) do not believe he exists, or if they believe he exists, that he has no influence over their lives.

They do not see him as a threat, and he rarely enters their thoughts. If they believe in him, he is just a figure that dwells in a place called hell and is the main furnace stoker and just waiting for God to send down anyone who dares to sin against Him. Unfortunately, that would be all of us!!

To believe this lie is to completely under estimate who Satan is. This lie is one that he is particularly happy with, because one of the most successful of Satan's tactics is to keep himself as invisible as possible. The fewer people who believe that he exists, the better that he likes it. He can do a lot more damage to the people God created in His image if they are not aware of his presence, because then he is underestimated, ignored or denied.

If we are not aware of his presence and tactics, then we may feel that we are in no need to protect ourselves from this unknown enemy. But he is a very real being and is also powerful. He can, and does, cause us a great deal of trouble and pain and goes to great lengths to lead us away from the truth and the proper knowledge and understanding of God.

Satan's ultimate plan is to destroy God, all of His ways, and eventually be like God himself. We can read about his ambitions in Isaiah 14 and verses 12 to 14.

Isa 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, shining one, son of the dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, who laid the nations low!

Isa 14:13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend into heaven! I will exalt my throne above the stars of God! I will sit on the mountain of assembly, in the far north!"

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds! I will make myself like the Most High!"

Here Satan has revealed his plans and ambitions. He has spent all his time in trying to bring his plans to completion. He has been actively pursuing this plan from the "Garden of Eden" and every day since. We know Satan will not be bound until Jesus returns in all power and glory. So Satan must still be active today.

So it is imperative that we understand what his tactics are, to see what he has tried to do in the past, so we can be aware of what he may try to do in the future and what tools he has at his disposal.

He works quietly behind the scenes to destroy us in ways that are very subtle and ways that may even seem "Godly" doing deeds that may appear to be in "God's name" but ever so slightly leading us from the truth and into his trap. We must realize that just a little lie mixed in with the truth will result in it all being a lie. This is one tactic of Satan. If he can lead us away from God in just small issues then he will try to do the same with larger issues.

Consider the words in 2Co 11:10-14. These verses are best described in the NIV (New International Version) of the Bible.

2Co 11:10 As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine.

2Co 11:11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

2Co 11:12 And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.

2Co 11:13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

Satan is brilliant and uses many tactics to destroy God, His plans, or His people, Firstly he keeps himself as invisible as possible, and then as we can see in verse 14 above that he pretends to be an angel of light, and the only reason he would do this is to draw us away from God. He has many demons with him and even these demons masquerade as apostles of Christ. We see this in the next verse, verse 15.

2Co 11:15 It is no great thing therefore if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Unfortunately, we know these demons will have success at leading people away from the truth of God. This will be all the more evident as we come closer to the end of this present age. This will be a time when Satan and his demon friends will be most active and will have great success in accomplishing their plans. We can read of this in 1 Timothy 4:1.

1Ti 4:1 But the Spirit says expressly that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons,

So Satan draws people away from God by looking like the real deal, an apostle of Christ, while all the time he leads unwary people away from God. They will be influenced by the many false apostles and ministers who will appear as the time of Christ's return draws near. They will say to the unwary just what they want to hear, or as is written for us in 2 Timothy chapter 4 and verse 3.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, will heap up for themselves teachers after their own lusts;

These people are not interested in the truth, but only in what they want to hear. They have their own beliefs and are not prepared to study God's word to see if what they believe is the truth or not. They would much prefer to listen to half-truths and lies as long as they sound good. Or as the saying goes. "Don't let the truth stand in the way of a wonderful story". Satan is so clever and scheming that it's difficult to tell the truth from his lies.

The only way a Christian will be able to tell what is a lie and what is the truth is by being a student of the Bible. Daily study and prayer are the best means of protecting ourselves from Satan and his influence.

The influence Satan has in the world can be seen clearly in today's society. Just look at the gay and lesbian movement around the world. Some of these people still attend church services where they are accepted and believe that they are going to Heaven when they die. Their itching ears want to hear these lies, especially if they come from some ministers of religion. It does not matter what the "Word of God" says, just tell me what I want to hear.

In this day and age it's difficult to believe that evil spirits exist, and are everywhere and are influencing people. But we are warned in 1 John 4:1-4 that we must be on our guard against these evil spirits.

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, don't believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

1Jn 4:3 and every spirit who doesn't confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, of whom you have heard that it comes. Now it is in the world already.

1Jn 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.

As Christians we must be aware of the spirit of the Antichrist that has been in the world for hundreds of years and is causing all of our troubles today. Therefore, as children of God we are to always be on our guard against Satan, the father of lies.

The Human Race

We all know the story of the “Garden of Eden” and how God created humans in His own image. Everything was perfect until Satan came on the scene and was successful in tempting Adam and Eve to sin.

Satan must have thought that if he could get the humans to eat of the tree of Knowledge of good and evil, then God would have no choice but to kill them. Satan believed this because He had heard God speaking to Adam and Eve and declaring they would die if they ate from the tree in the middle of the garden.

Gen 2:17 but you shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die.”

This was Satan’s first mistake, he must have assumed that their deaths would happen immediately when they ate of the fruit. If this was the case, then the human race would not have advanced beyond the “Garden of Eden”. Satan would have been successful in destroying God’s greatest creation. The human race. But God allowed Adam and Eve to have children and multiply upon the earth, and only then did they die. So humans continued, and Satan failed in his first attempt to scuttle God’s plans.

When Cain killed Able, he probably thought he had a victory at last, but Adam and Eve had another son, Seth, who is a part of the royal family line right up to Jesus. This is recorded in Luk 3:38, where Christ’s genealogy is traced right back to Adam and Eve, and in verse 38, at the end of the genealogy list we see Seth is named in the list.

Luk 3:38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Seth is in the line of ancestors of Jesus. Cain and Able were not. So Satan failed in his plan to end the royal line to Jesus. This royal line from Adam to Jesus was not broken, and Satan failed again in his plans.

By the time of Noah humanity had sunk to an all-time low, no doubt influenced by Satan, and God was tempted to destroy all life on earth. No doubt this would have pleased Satan. We can read this in Gen 6:5-7.

Gen 6:5 Yahweh saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was continually only evil.

Gen 6:6 Yahweh was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him in his heart.

Gen 6:7 Yahweh said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the surface of the ground—man, along with animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky—for I am sorry that I have made them."

Again Satan was to be disappointed because we read in Gen 6:8-13.

Gen 6:8 But Noah found favor in Yahweh's eyes.

Gen 6:9 This is the history of the generations of Noah: Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. Noah walked with God.

Gen 6:10 Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Gen 6:11 The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Gen 6:12 God saw the earth, and saw that it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

Gen 6:13 God said to Noah, "I will bring an end to all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them and the earth."

So God instructed Noah how to build the ark to save himself and the animals God wanted to save to repopulate the earth after the flood. Thankfully, Noah found favour with God, and built the ark. otherwise we would not be here today, but God decided to save Noah and his family but to destroy the rest of earth's population. So God sent a Flood to destroy the entire world, except for Noah and his family. So humanity was spared, and Satan's dream of humanity being totally destroyed failed again.

Now Satan has to bide his time and wait for another chance to upset God's plans.

The Jewish Nation

The next target of Satan was to destroy the nation of Israel. In Gen 12:1-3 God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many people and that the earth would be blessed because of him.

Gen 12:1 Now Yahweh said to Abram, "Leave your country, and your relatives, and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you.

Gen 12:2 I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who treats you with contempt. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you."

God promised that the descendants of Abraham would exist forever. If the nation that came from Abraham's descendants, Israel, were ever annihilated as a nation, then the Word of God would be untrue. It is for this reason that Satan has paid special attention to Abraham's descendants even to this very day.

Book of Esther

In the Book of Esther, we have an example of the attempted destruction of the entire Jewish nation. This book was written between the years 331bc and 560bc by an unknown author. King Xerxes was looking for a new wife and chose Esther, a Jewess, to be his new queen. Mordecai was her uncle and guardian and had instructed Esther not to tell anyone she was a Jew.

At this time Mordecai heard of a plot to assassinate the king, he warned Esther of the plot who advised the king. The plot was uncovered and the men responsible were Hanged. After this, king Xerxes honoured a man called Haman to a higher

rank than any other nobleman. He passed a decree that everyone was to bow down to him when ever he passed by. But Mordecai, being a Jew who only bowed down to God, refused to bow down to Haman

This act of defiance infuriated Haman and he had the king sign a decree and send it to all parts of his kingdom to have all Jewish people destroyed! We read this is Est 3:12 to 14.

Est 3:12 Then the king's scribes were called in on the first month, on the thirteenth day of the month; and all that Haman commanded was written to the king's local governors, and to the governors who were over every province, and to the princes of every people, to every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus, and it was sealed with the king's ring.

Est 3:13 Letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to plunder their possessions.

Est 3:14 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that they should be ready against that day.

Again, Satan must have thought that he had had a victory over God by having the entire Jewish population killed.

Haman's plan came unstuck when Queen Esther (who was Jewish) threw a banquet for the King and Haman, and then revealed to the King what Haman

had planned for the Jewish people, and this would have included Esther as well. We can pick up the story from Est 7:2-6.

Est 7:1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

Est 7:2 The king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition, queen Esther? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."

Est 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

Est 7:4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for male and female slaves, I would have held my peace, although the adversary could not have compensated for the king's loss."

Est 7:5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen, "Who is he, and where is he who dared presume in his heart to do so?"

Est 7:6 Esther said, "An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

Subsequently, Haman was instead killed and the decree to have the entire Jewish nation annihilated was reversed, therefore saving them all from destruction. So the Jewish nation is still with us today.

Even today we still see Satan trying his best to eliminate the Jewish Nation. Can you imagine what would have become of the Jews if Hitler had won the second world war. He had millions of Jews murdered in the gas chambers, but could not accomplish his ultimate aim of a total annihilation of the Jewish People.

Satan failed again.

The Temptation of Jesus Christ

So now we come to the birth of The Messiah, and we see the attempts of Satan to stop God's plan, by preventing Jesus from fulfilling what He had come down to the earth to do.

We know that Herod (no doubt influenced by Satan) tried to have the baby Jesus killed, but Joseph had moved his family to Egypt after being told to do this in a dream from God.

Mat 2:13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

Joseph did as the angel of the Lord has told him to do and fled to Egypt with Mary and the baby Jesus. When they had left Bethlehem all male children up to the age of 2 years old were killed on orders from Herod. This was in an attempt to destroy the Messiah.

Mat 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked by the wise men, was exceedingly angry, and sent out, and killed all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under, according to the exact time which he had learned from the wise men.

Mat 2:17 Then that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying,

Mat 2:18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; she wouldn't be comforted, because they are no more."

No doubt Satan had some influence in orchestrating this murder of all the boys under the age of two years in an attempt to kill Jesus. But again he failed in his plans.

Later Jesus was baptised by "John the Baptist" in the river Jordan. Immediately after this He went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan as we read in Mat 4:1-9.

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Mat 4:2 When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry afterward.

Mat 4:3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Mat 4:4 But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Mat 4:5 Then the devil took him into the holy city. He set him on the pinnacle of the temple,

Mat 4:6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you.' and, 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you don't dash your foot against a stone.'"

Mat 4:7 Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written, 'You shall not test the Lord, your God.'"

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took him to an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory.

Mat 4:9 He said to him, "I will give you all of these things, if you will fall down and worship me."

Satan approached Jesus out in the wilderness when He was at His weakest. He had not eaten for forty days. He tried three times to sway Jesus away from His Father's plan, but Jesus refused to fall for Satan's plan and in Mat 4:10-11, we read how Jesus answered Satan after the third temptation:

Mat 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve him only.'"

Mat 4:11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and served him.

Satan was unable to persuade Jesus to bow down to him and have Him comply with his wishes. So again he failed to upset God's plans. But Satan was not about to give up even after this. He failed to turn Jesus away from God, so he had another plan in mind, and that was to have the promised seed, the Messiah, murdered on the cross.

So Satan is ever looking for a way to destroy God's plan and now he sees an opportunity to have the promised Messiah killed, and if that will not stop God's plan then nothing will. So he schemed and had Jesus arrested, and we know the rest of the story, how Jesus was eventually crucified on the cross

Luk 22:3 Satan entered into Judas, who was also called Iscariot, who was counted with the twelve.

Luk 22:4 He went away, and talked with the chief priests and captains about how he might deliver him to them.

. Satan must have been very pleased with himself by this time, probably gloating with his fallen angels about how he had finally destroyed God's plan.

I would love to have seen his face three days later when Jesus rose from the tomb, appeared to many people over the next 40 days, and then ascended back into heaven. God had actually used Satan to bring about his plan, so Satan must have been rather upset with this development.

The mission that Jesus set out to do was indeed accomplished. Right before He died His last words are recorded in Joh 19-30.

Joh 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished." He bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.

So the plan that God had for humanity was accomplished by Christ's death on the cross. Satan tried again, but again he failed.

The Church

So the plan of God was accomplished despite all the efforts and strategies that Satan used to stop Him. The promised Messiah was born so Satan failed in his many attempts to foil God's plan. And today we see the Church is still spreading the gospel of Jesus around the world. So now we see Satan attacking the church and using his fallen angels masquerading as ministers of light and drawing many people away from the truth. But there is still some who follow Christ faithfully, so again Satan has failed, but the church must be on guard, especially as the end draws near because this is when Satan will be at his most powerful and will do his level best to destroy Christ's church.

The book of Revelation is rarely addressed in any church service. This is mainly due to the fact it contains many things that can be hard to understand. It reveals a time yet to come, when Satan will be cast out of Heaven for good, and he will then attack the church in his last effort to destroy God's plan. Read Rev 12:10-17 below to see Satan cast out of Heaven and to attack the church.

Rev 12:10 I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ has come; for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev 12:11 They overcame him because of the Lamb's blood, and because of the word of their testimony. They didn't love their life, even to death.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, heavens, and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has

gone down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has but a short time.”

Rev 12:13 When the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

Rev 12:14 Two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, so that she might be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Rev 12:15 The serpent spewed water out of his mouth after the woman like a river, that he might cause her to be carried away by the stream.

Rev 12:16 The earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon spewed out of his mouth.

Rev 12:17 The dragon grew angry with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep God's commandments and hold Jesus' testimony.

One point I would like to make here is to disagree with those who claim the church is not mentioned in the book of Revelation from chapter three through to chapter nineteen. When we look at verse seventeen above, we see the dragon (Satan) goes after those who keep the commandments of Jesus. The only ones who do keep the commandments of Jesus are His true church. Obviously the Jews do not do this, nor the Muslims. So this can only be referring to the church.

After Satan failed to stop the promised line from Adam through to Jesus. Then he attempted to destroy God's chosen people, the Jewish nation. Next, he targeted

the mission of Jesus on the earth, and then we see he is still actively pursuing the Church that Jesus established. In all of his planning and scheming Satan has failed to stop God's plan, he has lost, and Jesus has defeated him and his demons at every turn.

So Satan's target today is to destroy the church. He will do this by masquerading as an angel of light while deceiving people into believing false teachings, and as the end time draws near his powers will increase, and he will perform many amazing deeds that will convince many people throughout the world that his powers are from God, or that he is indeed God.

In verse twelve above is when Satan was cast out of Heaven and down to the earth permanently. The Heavens may rejoice as they are happy to see him removed from their presence. But woe to the earth because he comes down with great wrath, knowing that by this time he only has a very short amount of time to try to complete his mission. His first target was the woman who gave birth to the male child, this refers to Mary and the entire Jewish nation. But they are protected by God so he then turns his attention to her offspring, the church Jesus established.

We are warned that false teachers will come into the church to try to corrupt it. They will look like genuine preachers, but they will lead many away from the truth of the bible. Or as Mat 7:15 puts it. They come in sheep clothing but are inwardly ferocious wolves.

Mat 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Jesus also warns us that many will turn away from the faith. Hate will replace love that should be a sign of Christ's church. And many false prophets will deceive many people.

Mat 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

Mat 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

These signs are becoming more apparent every day. Look at the number of churches that will teach a gospel of “health and wealth” if you follow Jesus and also pay money into their ministry. False prophets and churches. Watch the news and see how much hatred is being levelled towards not only the Jewish people, but also towards the church. The “Woke” generation is turning against the church and in many cases they are calling evil practices good and good practices evil. Even the old testament warned us against this type of behaviour in Isa 5:20.

Isa 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Therefore it is imperative we are aware of Satan’s tactics to destroy the church. We must remain in constant touch with the “Word of God” to be able to recognise the false prophets, lies and corruption within the church. False Messiahs will also be present in these last days and will deceive many. They will have powers enough to look like genuine Messiahs, these powers will come to them from Satan and certainly not from God. And as you can see in Mat 24:24 below, these powers they will display will almost fool God’s elect.

Mat_24:24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

This is the reason we must remain vigilant and constantly study the word of God.

The Church Today

Today we see Satan at his work trying his best to destroy God's church. He wants to entice us all away from following Jesus, and he will do everything that he can to accomplish this. We must always remember that we are fighting against an enemy we cannot see and whose presence we cannot feel.

Therefore, we are advised to put on the full Armour of God as described in the book of Ephesians. Putting on the full Armour of God simply means that the pieces of the armor are found in a relationship with Jesus. In Romans 13:14 Paul tells us to "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ", This is the same as putting on His Armour. When we give ourselves to Jesus and "put on" His righteousness, we are clothed in the whole armor of God.

If we do this, then we must be able to say what Paul wrote in 2Tim 4:7-8

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 From now on, there is stored up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day; and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved his appearing.

When these times of trouble arrive (and they surely will) then the Christians living will need to have the courage and faith to resist Satan and his demons. They must not shy away from danger but remain loyal to God as instructed in.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

And again in

*1Co 16:13 Watch! Stand firm in the faith! Be courageous!
Be strong!*

This will certainly be a time of testing, when Christians will have to choose who to follow. Trust God enough to die for their convictions, or give up the race halfway through and suffer the consequences.

The battle that Satan is waging is a very real one, even though it is a very one sided battle, he will never give up his ambitions to tip God off His throne, he just does not know when he has been beaten.

When Jesus returns in all power and glory, He will not even deal with the defeated Satan Himself. Rather, He will send one of His loyal angels to bind him and throw him into the abyss. In Rev 20:1-3 we see where Satan is finally stopped and put where he can no longer cause any of God's children any pain and suffering.

*Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven,
having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great
chain.*

*Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is
the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.*

*Rev 20:3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed
it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore
until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be
set free for a short time.*

It is only because we are aware of Satan's tactics that can we resist him.

May the day when this angel carries out this task be with us soon. In the meantime we must know Satan is lurking about looking for people to devour

(lead away from God) We know Jesus has overcome the world, death and Satan. So let us continue to trust Him in all things and follow His lead.

Conclusion

Satan and his demons who have chosen to follow him are very active in the world today. But just what are they doing that may cause Christ's followers as well as the rest of the world to suffer.

One point I would like to bring up is whether people today are still possessed by evil spirits. When you read the scriptures you see many occasions when evil spirits were driven out of people. Consider the time Jesus went into Peter's home and many people who were demon possessed came to Him to be cured as we read in Mat 8:14-17

Mat 8:14 When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever.

Mat 8:15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her. She got up and served him.

Mat 8:16 When evening came, they brought to him many possessed with demons. He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick;

Mat 8:17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, "He took our infirmities, and bore our diseases."

Jesus cured many others who were afflicted with a variety of health problems as we see in Mat 4:23-25.

Mat 4:23 Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Mat 4:24 The report about him went out into all Syria. They brought to him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and torments, possessed with demons, epileptics, and paralytics; and he healed them.

Mat 4:25 Great multitudes from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and from beyond the Jordan followed him.

Another example of Jesus driving demons out of people is found in Mat 8:28-32.

Mat 8:28 When he came to the other side, into the country of the Gergesenes, two people possessed by demons met him there, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that nobody could pass that way.

Mat 8:29 Behold, they cried out, saying, "What do we have to do with you, Jesus, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Mat 8:30 Now there was a herd of many pigs feeding far away from them.

Mat 8:31 The demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of pigs."

Mat 8:32 He said to them, "Go!" They came out, and went into the herd of pigs: and behold, the whole herd of pigs rushed down the cliff into the sea, and died in the water.

In this modern day and age, we never hear of people being possessed by a demon. Yet in the days when Jesus was here it was not a completely uncommon trouble. So have these demons suddenly dissipated and no longer exist? Or are they still all around us and influencing our lives, and always in a bad way? We really need to ask the question, why do we not see demon possession as a problem any more? My personal thoughts on this is that many cases of mental illness are actually caused by demon possession. I may be wrong about this but it is an interesting thought.

We must remember the greatest tool at Satan's disposal is also the greatest gift God gave to mankind. Our free will to do what we think is right. This is not a new testament idea only but has always been God's plan that we have free will as is evident in the book of Deuteronomy.

Deu 30:19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

Deu 30:20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

As in the days when the book of Deuteronomy was written, probably by Moses, we are still given the choice to choose life or death. So let us choose life and resist Satan so we may have life eternal in God's Kingdom.

Please continue to study God's words in His Holy Bible, and by doing this you are putting on the full armour of God. You are also resisting the devil. Pray for knowledge and understanding always remembering Jesus has overcome Satan.

About The Author

Leslie Rendell has had no formal religious education. But he has been studying the bible for most of his life. When he is researching a topic, he looks at what other people have said in their books, or on the world wide web. He believes it is important to see opinions from every angle of a subject to give his own informed decision. But still the most important reference is always the bible. There is no other authority for matters of what God expects from those He has created in His own image. If there is a conflict between the bible and man's thoughts, the bible will win every time.

Although he has had no formal bible education, he believes the bible can be understood by the average bible reader. Otherwise, how could they ever understand what God's will is for their lives?

Apart from bible studies, Leslie loves to spend time with his family watching his daughter grow into a wonderful woman and mother. His grand children starting on their life journeys, and now some great grandchildren to watch growing up. It is a special time in his life to see his family grow.

He is retired and now lives in the South West of Western Australia. Apart from his love of the Bible and his family, his other hobby is photography, where he loves to photograph God's creation.

If you have read one of Leslie's books, he would appreciate you leaving a comment on his website (www.leslierendell.com)

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