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BibleBell Chronicles

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- All scripture herein is quoted from the **King James Bible** (1611) -

A Study of Satan

Part One: Satan's Beginnings

The angels KNOW

In the very instant that you become a Christian you are "sealed with the Holy Spirit."

Being sealed, **you are a MARKED person**. Who knows what the mark is? Perhaps the mark says, "God's property." Perhaps it says, "God's child" or "God's soldier."

Whatever that mark might be, every angel in the universe immediately KNOWS exactly who and what you are.

To God and His holy angels, **you are a cherished loved one**.

To Satan and his legions of evil angels, **you are an ENEMY**. Moreover, these spiritual hosts of wickedness fully intend to engage you in a deadly serious wrestling match. You are in a battle!

In whom [Jesus] ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**. (Ephesians 1:13)

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Know your Enemy

Rule One in any battle is **KNOW YOUR ENEMY**. Accordingly, the goal of this essay is to teach you about Satan, the chief of all your enemies. Herein you will learn of Satan's origin, his nature, his goals, and the tactics he will use against you. Most importantly, you will learn how to gain the victory.

Know this for a certainty –

One of Satan's main tactics is to DENY HIS OWN EXISTENCE.

Failing that, he seeks to ensure that anyone who teaches that he **DOES** exist is promptly laughed out of town.

Foundational information – There are angels called kings and princes

God's angel visits Daniel

In the days of Daniel chapter 10, the prophet Daniel and the people of Israel were held captive in Persia. They had been enslaved for many years.

Daniel prayed and fasted for three weeks, seeking God's answer as to when the Israelites would be set free.

Finally Daniel's prayers were answered by **a visit from an angelic person**, whose appearance is described by the verses alongside.

But why had God's messenger taken three weeks to respond?

Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz:

- His body also was like the beryl,
- and his face as the appearance of lightning,
- and his eyes as lamps of fire,
- and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass,
- and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

(Daniel 10:5-6)

God's angel explains

God's angel immediately explains to Daniel why he had been so long in coming. Namely, God's angel had been engaged in battle for 21 days with "the prince of the kingdom of Persia" and "the kings of Persia."

Assisted by "Michael, one of the chief princes," God's angelic messenger had finally been freed to come to Daniel. The chief prince Michael who aided God's messenger was an archangel (Jude 1.9), the defender of the nation Israel (Daniel 12.1).

The prince and kings of Persia who battled God's angel were themselves ANGELS, not humans.

- Humans could not even have seen God's angel as he passed through their territory.
- Moreover, mere humans cannot successfully take on an angel in direct battle, as is clearly demonstrated by the quoted passage from 2 Kings 19:35.

Then said he [God's angel] unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me;** and I remained there with the kings of Persia. (Daniel 10:12-13)

And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. (2 Kings 19:35)

Foundational information – In Ezekiel, the king of Tyre is an angelic being

The anointed cherub

The passage alongside is addressed to "the king of Tyre." This king is clearly an angelic being for the following reasons:

- There are angels whom the Bible calls princes and kings.
- The king of Tyre is said to have been "perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created..."
- **The king is referred to as "the anointed cherub." A cherub is an angelic person, not a human.** This is proven by many Bible verses, including but not limited to Genesis 3:22-24 and 2 Samuel 22:11.

Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me [the prophet Ezekiel], saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the **king of Tyrus [Tyre]**, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD;

- Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty...
- Thou art **the anointed cherub** that covereth; and I have set thee so:
- thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.
- Thou wast **perfect in thy ways** from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

(Ezekiel 28:11-15)

Foundational information – In Ezekiel, the king of Tyre is Satan

The rebellious king

The king of Tyre is an angelic being.

In our **OPINION** the king of Tyre is Satan. The reasons for this opinion are as follows:

- Throughout the Bible, Satan is consistently characterized as God's premier enemy, a rebel against all that God stands for. In fact, the Hebrew word "satan" means "enemy" or "adversary".
- Like Satan, the king of Tyre rebelled against God.
- Like Satan, the king of Tyre conducted his rebellion in God's own heaven.
- Like Satan, the king of Tyre sinned and became God's enemy.

In Luke 10:18, Jesus reports: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Like Satan, Ezekiel 28:17 states that the king of Tyre was cast down from heaven, "to the ground".

[God said to the King of Tyre:]
By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.
(Ezekiel 28:16)

And he [Jesus] said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. (Luke 10:18)

The origin and physical nature of Satan – Satan is a created being

A rebel by choice

Unlike God, Satan has not always existed. Instead, Satan was created by God.

However, Ezekiel 28:15 clearly states that Satan was NOT created evil. Rather, when God created Satan, God gave him the ability to make moral choices.

As you shall see in Part Two of this essay, it was Satan's OWN choice to rebel against God.

[Spoken to Satan as king of Tyre:]
Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.
(Ezekiel 28:15)

Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts... Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.
(Psalm 148:2-5)

For by him [Jesus Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.
(Colossians 1:16)

The origin and physical nature of Satan
Satan was created before the earth or humans existed

At the throne of God

Job 1.6 describes a scene wherein "the sons of God" and Satan presented themselves before the Lord in heaven. Thus, it is apparent that the "sons of God" are angelic beings.

Job 38.4 and 38.7 show that the sons of God were present when God created the earth. These angels shouted for joy at the wonder of God's creative act.

Clearly, therefore, **angelic persons, including Satan, were created by God BEFORE He created the earth and humans.**

Now there was a day when **the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord**, and Satan came also among them. (Job 1:6)

[God said:] "Where wast thou when I **laid the foundations of the earth?** ...and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4 and 38:7)

The origin and physical nature of Satan – Satan was created to fill up the sum of beauty and intelligence among all God's creatures

God's pattern

"Thou sealest up the sum" – When God created intelligent life forms, He evidently had in mind an upper limit as to how much wisdom and beauty He would bestow on any particular one of his creatures. **In Ezekiel 28:12 this limit is referred to as "the sum."**

- To a frog, God bestowed a small percentage of "the sum." To a dog, God bestowed a higher percentage of "the sum." And so forth.
- On Satan, however, God bestowed the FULL LIMIT – "the sum" of wisdom and beauty. Thus, Ezekiel 28:12 says that Satan "sealest up the sum, FULL of wisdom, and PERFECT in beauty."
- In other words, **Satan is the most intelligent and most beautiful creature that God ever made!**

Of course, we are talking about EXTERNAL beauty here. As to Satan's heart, we shall see in Part Two how it became quite black and ugly.

God said:] Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.** (Ezekiel 28:12)

Satan's original job and domain – Satan's original job was to serve as an anointed guardian of God

Guardian of God

Guardianship is the main job of cherubim (plural of cherub), as is demonstrated by Genesis 3:24, and as is illustrated by Exodus 25:18 and 25:22 (See also Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10).

As stated in Ezekiel 28:14, Satan is **the cherub who was anointed** by God to the incredibly high honor of serving as a **personal guardian** unto God's presence and holiness.

So he [God] drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden **Cherubims**, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

(Genesis 3:24)

[God said:] And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat....And there I will meet with thee, and **I will commune with thee** from above the mercy seat, from **between the two cherubims** which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

(Exodus 25:18-22)

Thou art **the anointed cherub that covereth**; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God (Ezekiel 28:14)

A Side Issue

Why would the all-powerful God need guardians? The simple answer is, God doesn't NEED anything or anyone – guardians or otherwise. Rather, for reasons God has not seen fit to reveal, **He has CHOSEN** to administer His creation in and through His creatures, angelic and human alike.

[God said:] See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: **neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.**

(Deuteronomy 32:39)

Satan's original domain was Planet Earth

Three Heavens

In the Bible there are **three places** called "heaven" -

- 1. The earth's atmospheric envelope or sky, from whence falls the **rain**. (Genesis 1:20)
- 2. The celestial heaven, wherein the **stars** are located. (Genesis 15:5)
- 3. The "third heaven" called **Paradise**, whereat God's throne is located. (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and **fowl that may fly above the earth** in the open firmament of heaven. (Genesis 1:20)

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward **heaven**, and tell **the stars**, if thou be able to number them: (Genesis 15:5)

I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to **the third heaven**. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into **paradise**, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

Realm of the Heavenly Places

The spiritual hosts of **angels** reside in "**the heavenly places**" wherein the stars and planets are located.

The heavenly places are govern-mentally organized into principalities, powers, and so forth.

It is conceivable that angels occupy the entirety of the celestial heavens which we call "outer space."

To the intent that now unto the **principalities and powers in heavenly places** might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10)

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities, against powers**, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against **spiritual wickedness in high places**. (Ephesians 6:12)

A Garden of Minerals

Satan's original domain was Planet Earth, where he resided in the garden of God called Eden.

- This was **NOT** the Eden that God made for Adam and Eve.
- The Eden of Adam and Eve was a garden of vegetation -- "every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food."
(Genesis 2:8-9)

On the other hand, Satan resided in an earlier version of Eden which was a garden of minerals -- sardius, topaz, diamond, and so forth.
(Ezekiel 28:13)

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. (Ezekiel 28:13)

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
(Genesis 2:8-9)

Summary of Part One

Satan's original nature

- Satan is a cherub, created by God.
- Satan was created "perfect all in his ways" -- NOT evil.
- Satan was created before God created the earth and humans.
- God created Satan as the most intelligent and beautiful of all His creatures.
- God anointed Satan to serve as a guardian of God's presence and holiness.
- Satan's original domain was Planet Earth, in the garden of God known as Eden.

Part Two: Satan's Rebellion

Foundational information - Isaiah identifies Lucifer with Satan

More about the Enemy

In our OPINION 'Lucifer' is Satan because:

- Throughout the Bible, Satan is consistently characterized as **God's premier enemy**, a rebel against all that God stands for. In fact, the Hebrew word 'satan' means "enemy" or "adversary."
- **Like Satan, Lucifer became an enemy of God.** ("I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...")
- **Like Satan, Lucifer rebelled against God** and sought to take God's place. ("I will be like the most High...")
- **Like Satan, Lucifer ascended into God's own heaven** in order to conduct his rebellion. ("I will ascend into heaven...")
- In Luke 10:18, Jesus reports that He witnessed Satan "fall like lightning from heaven." Isaiah 14:12 states that, **like Satan, Lucifer fell from heaven.** ("How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer...")

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart,

- I will ascend into heaven,
- I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:
- I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
- I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
- I will be like the most High.

(Isaiah 14:12-14)

And he [Jesus] said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.** (Luke 10:18)

The Goals of Satan's Rebellion

Satan's goals in rebelling against God are clearly defined by the five "I will's" of Isaiah 14:12-14 as shown below...

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

The "clouds" here may be the clouds above planet Earth, the domain that God assigned to Satan. Satan desired to ascend above those clouds and permanently take over God's own kingdom in heaven.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the **stars** of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. **The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:** and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. (Revelation 1:20)

"Stars" are a symbol of angels, as defined by Revelation 1:20. Satan wanted to rule over all the angels of God, and no doubt desired their worship as well.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation,** in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

“Congregation” is the full assembly of the heavenly host. “Mount” is the summit point, the position of highest authority which is God’s rightful place of kingship. Clearly, Satan desired to displace God as ruler of the universe.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.** (Isaiah 14:12-14)

Notice especially the title that Satan uses for God. Satan wanted to be like “the most High.” This title of God (El Elyon in Hebrew) literally means “**the strongest of the strong.**”

Satan could have selected from among many other titles of God. For example, Satan could have used El Shaddai, which means “the breasted one who feeds His children,” but he didn’t. He might have picked “Yahweh Rohi” which means “the Lord our shepherd,” but he didn’t.

Satan’s goal is obvious. **Satan wants God’s POWER and AUTHORITY, but he doesn’t want anything to do with God’s nurturing and leadership attributes.** Satan wants absolute power, but without the responsibility of having to care for anyone but himself.

Not my will but Thine

Notice the sharp contrast between Satan’s “I will’s” and the Lord’s own attitude in the garden of Gethsemane.

- **Satan’s attitude** was totally self-centered, prideful, and arrogant.
- **The Lord’s attitude**, even though He was facing a cruel death on the cross, was that of complete meekness and submission unto God.
- Three times Jesus prayed to His Father, saying, “NOT as I will, but as thou wilt.”

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder...And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless **not as I will, but as thou wilt.** (Matthew 26:36-39)

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done** in earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10)

It is equally important to notice what the Lord taught you about YOUR attitude toward God's sovereignty.

- In Matthew 6, Jesus teaches you to say to your Father in heaven, "THY will be done."

If you pray with any other motive than loving trust and submission toward God, you are falling into the condemnation of the devil!

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:6)

The flaw in Satan's character that led him to rebel

Mirror mirror on the wall

Satan is the most beautiful and intelligent of God's creatures.

Ezekiel 28:17 tells us that Satan, in effect, fell in love with himself. He was so enamoured with his own beauty and intelligence that he deluded himself into thinking that he and he alone was worthy of worship and adoration.

1 Timothy 3:6 gives the name to Satan's downfall. That name is PRIDE – the big "I".

[Spoken to Satan as king of Tyre:]
Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness...
(Ezekiel 28:17)

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:6)

The Bible is very clear about the dangers of pride and glorying in oneself:

Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Glory not in oneself but in God!

What Satan's rebellion in ancient times was NOT

NOT "war in heaven"

Revelation 12:7-9 does **NOT** describe Satan's original rebellion against God. That chapter relates, rather, to **events that will take place in the future**, as we shall show in a Part 4 of our study of Satan.

And there was [**in the future**] war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

NOT a contest of strength

When Satan rebelled he did NOT engage God in hand-to-hand combat.

- The idea of anyone attempting to defeat God by a contest of strength is **utterly absurd**.
- According to Colossians 1:16-17, the universe and all its living creatures exist **ONLY** through God's will.
- Moreover, **all the universe is held together by God's will and God's will alone**.

In short, all that God would need to do to 'fight' Satan would be to simply 'forget' that he even existed. **Satan is quite aware of this fact**.

For by him [Jesus Christ] were **all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, **whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers**: all things were created by him, and for him: **And he is before all things, and by him all things consist**. (Colossians 1:16-17)

The true nature of Satan's rebellion

"Trading" in rebellion

As is clearly stated in Isaiah 14:13, Satan's original rebellion against God was a 'heart battle.'

Satan's 'merchandise', 'traffick' or trade, as referred to in Ezekiel 28:16-18, may have consisted of inciting God's angels to join his rebellion.

In other words, Satan engaged in a whispering campaign designed to cast doubts on the goodness, justice, and worthiness of God.

Satan's 'trading' methods are further described by events that later took place in the Garden of Eden, and in God's own throne room. Read on!

[Addressed to Satan as Lucifer:]
For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God (Isaiah 14:13)

[Addressed to Satan as king of Tyre:]
By the multitude of thy merchandise [trade] they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned...Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick [trade] (Ezekiel 28:16-18)

Tradesman in the Garden

Revelation 12:9 tells you that "serpent" is a symbol or personification of Satan. As Satan's tool, the serpent in the Garden of Eden solicited Adam and Eve to join in Satan's rebellion.

Notice Satan's 'trading' methods...

- First he created doubt – "Yea, hath God said...?"
- Then he accused God of lying – "Ye shall not surely die..."
- Finally he accused God of withholding good things from His creatures – "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods..."

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world... (Revelation 12:9)

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:1-5)

Tradesman at the throne of God

Job (Chapter 1) describes an event that took place in God's own throne room. In the presence of God and the angelic host of heaven, **Satan continued his battle for the minds and hearts of God's creatures.**

Notice Satan's 'trading' method at God's throne, for it is somewhat different here from the method he used in subverting Adam and Eve.

In this case, **Satan is saying (in effect), "The only reason anyone obeys and serves God is because God BRIBES them with wealth and protection."**

Now there was a day when the sons of God [Angels] came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them...

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said:

- **Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?**
- **thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance [possessions] is increased in the land.**

But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

(Job 1:6-11)

Walk a mile in Job's sandals

Even today, Satan's rebellion continues unabated. But know for a certainty that his methods have not changed. There is one big difference, however – **YOU ARE NOW THE TARGET!**

- Just as he did with Adam and Eve, he now seeks to make YOU doubt God's honesty and goodness.
- Just as he did with Job, he now seeks to prove that YOU will abandon your love and obedience of God when bad things happen to you or your loved ones.
- Moreover, whenever suffering afflicts you, Satan tries to make you question whether God cares or even exists.

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also **to suffer for his sake.**
(Philippians 1:29)

What is the Biblical answer to Satan's repeated accusations that God is unworthy of love? How does God respond to Satan's charge that people only serve and love God through fear and bribery?

Ephesians 3:10 clearly proclaims that **YOU are God's reply** to those vicious accusations. You are God's exhibit **NUMBER ONE** to Satan and all the angelic hosts of heaven.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, **a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth [shuns] evil?** (Job 1:8)

To the intent that now unto the **principalities and powers [Angels]** in heavenly places might be known by **the church [believers in Jesus]** the **manifold wisdom of God** (Ephesians 3:10)

[“The holy angels, who look into the mystery of our redemption by Christ, could not but take notice of this branch of that mystery, that among the Gentiles is preached the unsearchable riches of Christ.” (Matthew Henry - from commentary on Ephesians 3:10)]

Summary of Part Two

Satan's method of rebellion

Satan's rebellion against God began uncounted eons ago, and continues even today:

- He rebels by trading in deceit and slander, NOT by engaging in a contest of strength.
- His goal is to subvert the hearts and minds of angelic and human creatures, to turn them against God.
- He seeks to draw angels and humans away from service to God and towards worship and service to Satan instead.
- In applying this strategy, Satan is striking at God's only “weakness,” namely His infinite capacity for LOVE. God LOVES. And because of His great love, God will not coerce or force His creatures to love Him in return.

The question yet to be answered is this: Will God's love be victorious against Satan's insidious weapons – lies, greed, and lust?

Part Three: Campaign to stop the Messiah

READ ME!

In His Bible, God did not see fit to record every little detail of Satan's activities and motivations. Therefore, a large portion of the narrative that follows is based on "reading between the lines" in the record which God HAS seen fit to reveal.

MANY Bible scholars have reached similar conclusions to those set out in this paper.

- So, this narrative is "orthodox" – not simply a piece of speculation.
- At the same time remember that **God's truth is NOT arrived at by a vote of the majority.**

How do you separate someone's OPINION from the facts supplied by God? In every case, this narrative quotes the main Bible verses on which these opinions are based. **As a good Berean (Acts 17:11), you should...**

- Read the verses themselves
- Talk to God
- And THEN decide how much to accept.

Special Note: In this study, Lord Jesus is sometimes referred to as human. And that is true. The incarnate Jesus is fully human AND fully God, at one and the same time.

God's judgment of Satan for his rebellion

Who will rule the earth?

When Satan was divested of his dominion over Planet Earth, he was undoubtedly curious to know who God would choose to reign in his place. Would God give rulership of earth to some other powerful angel? Worse yet, would God give dominion to Michael, the archangel who was Satan's hated enemy?

God's decision on this matter was surely a source of amazement, not only to Satan, but also to the entire host of heaven.

Instead of placing earth under angelic rulership, God created a NEW kind of creature to exercise dominion...

God's surprising decision

The new creature that God made to rule the earth was – **MAN!**

Satan could readily see that this new creature was **not a spirit person**. No, this creature – this “Adam and Eve” – was a **puny bag of fragile flesh and bones**, bound to the earth by gravity and the creature's need to eat and breathe:

- Not able to freely roam the universe, as Satan could.
- Not nearly as beautiful as Satan.
- Not nearly as intelligent.
- Not nearly as powerful.
- Not even able to see Satan, unless Satan himself willed it.

Satan was determined to challenge these puny humans for earth's rulership. **And he had no doubt that he would win!**

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and **over all the earth**, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
(Genesis 1:26)

KEEP the garden

Adam was warned that he had an enemy:

- This warning was contained in Genesis 2:15, where God commanded Adam “to keep [guard]” the garden of Eden.
- The word “keep” in Genesis 2:15 translates the Hebrew word *shamar*, which means “guard.”
- The same Hebrew word appears again in Genesis 3:24.

Yes, Adam was put on notice that an enemy would come. This is why he was told to guard the garden. And Satan DID come.

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to **keep [guard]** it. (Genesis 2:15)

So he [God] drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to **keep [guard]** the way of the tree of life. (Genesis 3:24)

Devil serpent

In the guise of a serpent, the enemy undertook his treacherous subversion of Adam and Eve. Revelation 12:9 defines this serpent-enemy as a tool or personification of Satan himself.

Satan's first target was Eve, the woman. 1 Timothy 2:14 tells us that **Eve was deceived** by the serpent's lies, but Adam was NOT deceived.

- Do you say, "**Shame on Eve?**" Read on.
- Genesis 3.6 tells us that Adam was right there with Eve when the serpent deceived her.
- **Adam was not deceived.** After all, God had warned Adam (not Eve) that an enemy would come.
- Even so, **Adam stood silently by** and allowed the serpent to trick Eve.
- Shame on Eve? **No, no – SHAME ON ADAM!**
- Because Adam failed to heed God, Satan's ploy succeeded.
- Whether they knew it or not, **Adam and Eve had joined Satan's rebellion** against God.

Now **the serpent** was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And **he said unto the woman**, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1)

And **Adam was not deceived**, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. (1 Timothy 2:14)

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto **her husband with her**; and he did eat. (Genesis 3:6)

Satan grabs back his dominion

By virtue of Adam's wilful disobedience of God, **Satan usurped mankind's dominion over Planet Earth.**

In Matthew 4:8-9, Jesus did not contest Satan's right to offer Him rulership of all the kingdoms on earth.

Satan's dominion over earth is further attested to by his titles, "prince of this world" (John 14:30) and "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him **all the kingdoms of the world**, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, **All these things will I give thee**, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.
(Matthew 4:8-9)

[Jesus said:] Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for **the prince of this world cometh**, and hath nothing in me.
(John 14:30)

In whom **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
(2 Corinthians 4:4)

God promises to send a Messiah

Genesis 3:14-19 records the judgment that God pronounced on the human race because of our sin in the garden of Eden. From that time on, childbirth would be painful and people would die.

At the same time, however, **God gave the first hint that He would some day provide mankind with a Messiah**, the man Christ Jesus.

God did not mention Jesus by name. Instead, God gave Jesus the strange title of "**her seed**."

Satan immediately understood what God was saying.

- The Messiah would come to do battle with Satan.
- Satan would bruise the Messiah's heel – **a non-fatal blow**.

But the Messiah would bruise Satan's head – **a FATAL blow**.

[God said:] And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall **bruise thy head**, and thou shalt **bruise his heel**.
(Genesis 3:15)

Suddenly, Satan had a new foe to conquer. A foe that Satan knew only as “her seed.” Of course, Satan missed the significance of the fact that God called the Messiah “her seed” – a title which meant that the Messiah would be a child of a woman, and **ONLY** of a woman.

This title that meant that the Messiah would be VIRGIN-born!

Satan felt certain that his new foe, the Messiah, would be a child of Eve’s. When Eve gave birth to two children -- Cain and Abel – Satan waited to see which of them was the Messiah.

Genesis 4:3-5 records that God respected Abel, whereas He did not respect Cain. Satan decided, Aha! Abel was undoubtedly God’s Messiah.

So Satan moved Cain to slay Abel. This would get rid of the Messiah. Or so he thought.

Jesus confirmed that it was Satan who caused Abel’s murder when he declared him “a murderer from the **BEGINNING.**”

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. **And the LORD had respect unto Abel** and to his offering: **But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.** And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

(Genesis 4:3-5)

[Jesus said:] Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning,** and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

(John 8:44)

Satan's second attempt to prevent the coming of the Messiah

But Satan’s murder of Abel was to no avail, for God gave Eve yet another child, whose name was Seth.

Satan realized that murdering Seth wouldn’t work – God would simply provide Eve with another son.

So Satan set out on a different course. He began a **campaign of fostering mankind’s sinful nature.** This included, in particular, **perverting mankind’s natural sexuality.**

This campaign must have lasted many decades, but the end result is clearly described in Genesis 6:5 – the human race eventually became so totally wicked that **God would not permit its continued existence.**

And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: **For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel,** whom Cain slew.

(Genesis 4:25)

And **GOD** saw that **the wickedness of man was great in the earth,** and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

(Genesis 6:5)

And the **LORD** said, **I will destroy man** whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. (Genesis 6:7)

Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD

Satan was counting on what he considered was **one of God's greatest weaknesses**, namely, His holiness.

Satan KNEW that God's holiness would compel Him to destroy a human race that was totally and irrevocably committed to wickedness. And this destruction of sinful humanity would mean that **NO MESSIAH would come** to defeat Satan!

But Satan soon discovered that he didn't know as much about God as he thought. In fact, down the many thousands of years that have followed the incidents described in Genesis chapter 6, **Satan STILL hasn't got the message**. Namely...

- Never underestimate the power and loveliness of God's **AMAZING GRACE!** (Genesis 6:8).
- No matter how wicked the world may become, God **ALWAYS** preserves **a faithful remnant** of humanity (1 Kings 19:18).

God will always bring GOOD out of even the worst of circumstances because "ALL things work together for good to those who love God." (Romans 8:28)

But **Noah found grace** in the eyes of the LORD. (Genesis 6:8)

And he [Elijah] said [to God], I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; **and I, even I only, am left**; and they seek my life, to take it away... **Yet I [God] have left me seven thousand in Israel**, all the knees which have **not bowed unto Baal**, and every mouth which hath not kissed him. (1 Kings 19:14-18)

And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called **according to his purpose**. (Romans 8:28)

Because of **God's grace**, Noah and his family were preserved from God's judgment on the human race.

Satan's second attempt to prevent the Messiah had failed.
But he didn't give up.

Satan pinpoints the Messiah

Satan again attempted to subvert the entire human race by leading them to revolt against God and build the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11). But here again, God foiled Satan's plan.

Even so, **Satan was still determined to prevent the Messiah from coming**, but how?

Out of all the many thousands of Noah's descendants, from whom would the Messiah be born? Unless Satan found the answer to that question, he wouldn't know whom to destroy.

Then Satan overheard some **vital clues**.

- Satan listened in to God's promise to Abram (later named Abraham) in Genesis 12. He listened and learned that the Messiah, God's blessing to all mankind, would be a descendant of **Abraham**.
- Later, Satan learned that the Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham's son, **Isaac**.
- And later still, a descendant of Isaac's son, **Jacob**.

Satan had now pin-pointed his target. **If he could wipe out all of Jacob's descendants, there would be NO Messiah.**

Now the LORD had said unto Abram... and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed**. (Genesis 12:1-3)

And God said unto Abraham... in **Isaac** shall thy seed be called. (Genesis 21:12)

13: And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said [to **Jacob**], I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and **in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed**. (Genesis 28:13-14)

Genocide – attempt #1

Now let's look at Satan as he spins his plots in the days of Exodus Chapter One:

- At that time, all of Jacob's descendants (called "Hebrews") were enslaved in Egypt, at the mercy of the king (Pharaoh).
- Moved by Satan, the Pharaoh ordered the midwives to kill all of the newborn male Hebrews. (Midwives assisted women in childbirth.)

Satan's plan was simple yet deadly.

- If all the male Hebrews were slain, the Hebrew race would disappear within a single generation.
- There would be no descendants of Jacob, and **NO MESSIAH could be born to defeat Satan.**

In other words, Satan attempted **genocide** – the extinction of an entire race of people!

But the midwives, at risk of their own lives, obeyed God rather than Pharaoh. Satan's plan was again **foiled**.

And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; **if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.** (Exodus 1:15-17)

Genocide – attempt #2

Satan again attempted genocide against the Hebrew people (the Jews), as recorded in the Book of Esther. This attempt also failed.

The Bible records **MANY** further attempts by Satan to prevent the coming of the Messiah. We won't list all of them. It will suffice to say that every attempt failed.

How could **anyone** ever defeat God's plan? Well, Satan thought he could. And he **continues** to think this!

13 And the letters were sent by posts 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 upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.** (Esther 3:13)

Good news and bad news

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy**, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

Precisely at God's appointed time, the Messiah, Jesus, was born.

BAD news for Satan.

Good news for mankind!

So Satan set out at once to murder the Messiah.

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: **for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.** (Matthew 2:13)

Again, Satan failed.

Over the years as Jesus grew up, Satan longed **for the opportunity to tempt Him** into disobeying God. He had succeeded in tempting Adam and was certain he would be equally successful in tempting Jesus – after all, Jesus WAS human, and humans were so pitifully weak and sinful.

At long last, he got his opportunity.

Incredibly...

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.
(Matthew 4:1)

Satan had finally got his chance! He could now tempt Jesus to the maximum extent.

It was **God Himself** who gave Satan this opportunity! In fact, God **INSISTED** that Jesus face this test. (Matthew 4:1)

Moreover, God required that **Jesus go without food or water** for **FORTY** days and nights while He faced Satan's wiles.

Satan must have been delighted!

Adam had enjoyed a full stomach, and was surrounded by a plentiful supply of food and water, and yet he yielded to Satan.

Here, **Jesus was starving and on the verge of death** from dehydration.

Satan thought the Messiah would be a **PUSHOVER!**

Seeing that Jesus was greatly weakened by hunger, he first tempted Jesus with food. Failure.

Satan then tempted Jesus with incredible power, wealth and influence. But all to no avail.

Then was Jesus led up **of the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (Matthew 4:1)

And when he had fasted **forty days and forty nights**, he was afterward an hungred [hungry]. (Matthew 4:1)

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, **command that these stones be made bread**. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:3-4)

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, **If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone**. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. (Matthew 4:5-7)

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him **all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me**. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (Matthew 4:8-10)

Satan must have been incredibly frustrated by this!
But the battle was far from over.

Satan would be back!

Victory at last!

Satan made many additional attempts on the life of Jesus, one of which is recorded in Matthew 26:3-4. All failed – except the final one.

At last Satan was successful and Jesus was charged with blasphemy and sedition.

- In an illegal trial, based on lying testimony, **Jesus was sentenced to death.**
- When Governor Pilate sought to commute the grossly unfair sentence of death, Satan incited the mob to cry, "**Let him be crucified.**"
- Pilate gave into their demands and Jesus was crucified.

Satan rejoiced. Victory at last! There must have been a great celebration by Satan and his demon hoards for three days and three nights!

Then Sunday morning came and the "impossible" happened.

Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, **And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.**
(Matthew 26:3-4)

Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, **Let him be crucified.** And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, **Let him be crucified.** (Matthew 27:22-23)

And he **bearing his cross** went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew **Golgotha: Where they crucified him,** and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.
(Matthew 19:17-18)

More good news and bad news

This was the BEST of all possible news for mankind!

And VERY BAD news for Satan.

Satan suddenly realized that what he had thought was **his** victory was, in fact, **God's** victory.

Praise ye the LORD!

[The Angel proclaimed] He is not here: for **he is risen**, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
(Matthew 28:6)

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.
(Revelation 18:1)

Not only was the Messiah alive, but he had defeated death and would be alive forevermore!

The Messiah withdraws from battle

Satan knows the Bible very well, as was abundantly demonstrated by his use of Scripture in Matthew Chapter 4.

Satan must have been greatly troubled when recalled the Biblical prophecy that the Messiah would become **King over all the earth**. (Zechariah 14:9 and several other Bible verses make this prophecy.)

No doubt Satan fully expected the Messiah to immediately begin His conquest of Satan and his demonic forces, but instead he got a pleasant surprise. Rather than engaging in battle, the Lord ascended into heaven.

Satan had been given a **stay of execution**.

And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. (Zechariah 14:9)

And when he [Jesus] had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up [to heaven]**; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)

What is the Messiah waiting for?

Satan must have wondered why the risen Lord withdrew from the battlefield of planet Earth, **just when victory was easily within his grasp**.

Perhaps, dear reader, you wonder too? The Bible gives the answer.

1 Corinthians 15:24 tells us that the Lord's final conquest of the world and of Satan will mark **THE END of the world** as we know it.

Don't you get it yet? Jesus delayed his conquest because of **YOU!**

Jesus had to **postpone** THE END so that you could be born, and receive him, and become his own. (2 Peter 3:9)

Why? **Because he loves you**. He always has. (Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 1:4-6)

Jesus still delays his coming? Why? What **has yet to happen** before he can return?

Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. (1 Corinthians 15:24)

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, **Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love**: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)

According as he [God] hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself**, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (Ephesians 1:4-6)

Meanwhile...

[Jesus said:] O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. (Matthew 23:37-39)

Now that Messiah has ascended to heaven, **Satan's new and most urgent goal is...to PREVENT** the Messiah from returning.

Why? For the simple reason that **the Second Coming of the Messiah spells DOOM for Satan**, and Satan is fully aware of this fact. Remember, he knows the Bible in all its detail.

Can Satan prevent Jesus from coming again? Maybe he thinks he can. In Matthew 23:37-39, Jesus stated very clearly that he would not return until the nation of Israel asked him to do so. In other words, **the people of Israel must ACKNOWLEDGE that Jesus is the Messiah and PRAY** for his return.

What is Satan's plan to stop the Lord's return? It appears to be fourfold:

1. Neutralise or destroy **any and every person** who proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah. This means that, as a **born-again Christian, YOU** are one of Satan's targets.
2. Destroy **all members of the Jewish race**, and thus eliminate any future possibility that they might call on Jesus as the Messiah.
3. Neutralise or destroy any nation that supports Israel's continued existence. This means the USA is a prime target. Satan is determined to destroy America, **whether by war, by rot from within, or both**. Have you noticed any signs of rot lately?
4. **Wipe out Israel itself.**

Satan has **never** ceased his attempts to destroy the Jewish people. They have been persecuted relentlessly throughout history, particularly by the Church of Rome. This persecution culminated in the **Holocaust** under Nazi Germany, a deliberate, carefully planned and highly successful attempt to eliminate a huge proportion of the Jewish people.

Israel itself has been subject to numerous attempts to destroy it **since its foundation in 1948**, including the Six Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Several nations today, many quite powerful, have **publicly pledged to destroy the state of Israel**.

Summary of Part Three

Even from the ancient days of Adam and Eve, Satan has known that his ultimate defeat will come at the hands of the Messiah.

- As recorded in the Old Testament, Satan repeatedly attempted to prevent the Messiah's birth by destroying his ancestors, the Jewish people, but he failed.
- When the Messiah was born, Satan then began a campaign to murder him. He finally succeeded in having the Messiah falsely convicted and crucified. But God resurrected the Messiah and Satan again had failed.
- No doubt Satan expected the resurrected Messiah to immediately engage him in battle. To Satan's pleasant surprise, however, the Messiah instead ascended into heaven, where he remains to this day.

Satan is well aware that the Messiah has promised to return to earth, but only when the Jewish people acknowledge him as the Messiah and pray for his return.

Accordingly, Satan's goal is now either to destroy Israel or to prevent Israel from recognizing Jesus as the Messiah.

His targets are Israel, the nations that support Israel (including the USA), and all born-again Christians.

Part Four – Present Activities & Final Destiny

Satan counterfeits the churches of God

Satan has his own **synagogues and churches**. Some of Satan's counterfeit churches even profess to be Christian and have the words "Jesus Christ" in their title.

Satan's churches are empowered, not by God's Holy Spirit, but by a **different spirit**, even a demon spirit. Sometimes a church is empowered by Satan himself. But make no mistake, Satan's churches and religions **DO** have great power and charisma.

Satan's churches preach "**gospels**," but these gospels differ from the gospel of Jesus Christ as given in the King James Bible.

- Sometimes the difference is quite large.
- More often than not, however, the difference is **VERY** subtle – just enough to lead a person astray. Satan is prepared to work slowly to get results.

... I [Jesus] know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are **the synagogue of Satan**. (Revelation 2:9)

For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (2 Corinthians 11:4)

Satan moulds counterfeit Christians

In order to sow confusion and lead people astray, Satan works particularly hard to plant **counterfeit Christians** in Bible-preaching churches.

These are just like the **tares** that Jesus warned about in Matthew Chapter 13. (A tare is a weed that looks like wheat.)

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, **his enemy [Satan] came and sowed tares among the wheat**, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came

and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, **An enemy [Satan] hath done this.** The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.** (Matthew 13:24-30)

Satan counterfeits the preachers and teachers called by God

Not only does Satan seek to plant false Christians among true believers, but he is especially keen to plant **false preachers** as well.

The Bible warns us of this danger, but many miss its importance. As a result, they listen to preachers whose words and teachings do not accord with scripture.

If their listeners were to “rightly divide” the word of God, they would not fall into this cunning trap. Just as a wall divides two houses, **the Word of God separates or divides truth from falsehood.**

Like the people of Berea (Acts 17:11), **who checked even the words of Paul to see if they were fully in accord with scripture,** every true believer must ensure that the teaching he receives in his or her church is in complete agreement with the Word of God.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; **for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of **righteousness;** whose end shall be according to their works. (2 Corinthians 11:13-14)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.** (2 Timothy 2:15)

These [the people of Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.** (Acts 17:11)

Satan counterfeits the doctrines of God

Most preachers today are educated in **Bible seminaries**. Thus Satan has concentrated a great part of his efforts on infiltrating these seminaries and sowing disunity and falsehood. His efforts have been richly rewarded.

Today many (but thankfully not all) Bible seminaries have **counterfeit teachers**. While highly proficient in all aspects of Biblical study, they are NOT God's people.

Rather than teaching the truths of the Bible, they teach **counterfeit doctrines** or "**doctrines of devils**." These include such lies as:

- **LIE** - The Bible is not the literal word of God.
- **LIE** - The Bible contains many errors and often contradicts itself.
- **LIE** - Those parts of the Bible that are in conflict with so-called "scientific truths," such as evolution, are merely myths or parables.
- **LIE** - Alternative sexual preferences are okay.

Note that the Bible says this will be a particular problem "**in the latter times**."

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times** some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron...** (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

Satan counterfeits the miracles of God

Jesus gave clear warning that “miracles” done in his name do **NOT**, in and of themselves, prove that they are of God. Satan can and does perform **counterfeit miracles**.

In some churches, so-called ‘miracles’ – uncontrollable laughter, uncontrollable movements, speaking in ‘tongues,’ ‘miraculous’ healings, and the like – have taken on the appearance of a **carnival sideshow**.

1 Corinthians 14:32-33 makes it clear that God does not ‘**take-over**’ a **person’s mind** or cause him to **lose self-control**. However, Satan does.

Yes, God often does choose to heal people. But he does **NOT** indulge in cheap **theatrics** to entertain or impress an audience. A healing that brings fame to a human person or institution is **NOT** Biblical.

The Biblical way of healing (James 5:14-15) will involve a **PRIVATE** prayer session in the pastor’s study or at the sick person’s bedside, **NOT** on TV! And Not in a packed room of cheering people.

Jesus is very clear about the **private** and **personal** nature of true prayer (Matthew 6). He even compared prayer with “vain repetitions” and “much speaking” to the prayer of heathen. (Remember that heathen worship Satan.)

God is not the author of confusion or theatrics (1 Corinthians 14). **But Satan is.**

For they are **the spirits of devils, working miracles...** (Revelation 16:14)

[Jesus said:] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, **have we not** prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name **done many wonderful works?** And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:22-23)

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and **signs and lying wonders** (2 Thessalonians 2:9)

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For **God is not the author of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. (1 Corinthians 14:32-33)

Is any sick among you? let him call for the **elders of the church**; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. (James 5:14-15)

But thou, when thou prayest, **enter into thy closet**, and when thou hast shut thy door, **pray to thy Father which is in secret**; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, **use not vain repetitions**, as the **heathen** do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. (Matthew 6:6-8)

Satan counterfeits the Messiah

There have been many examples of modern **false prophets**, such as Sun Myung Moon, Joseph Smith and Charles Taze Russell. Others, less well known, have deceived many.

According to Jesus, many **false Christs** are yet to come.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.** (Matthew 24:4-5)

Satan counterfeits / perverts the word of God

Satan has many **counterfeit books** that purport to be the word of God. These include:

- Book of Mormon
- The Apocrypha
- The Koran
- The Upanishads
- Bhagavad Gita

What are especially significant (and sinister) for Christians are Satan's repeated attempts to **counterfeit the Bible, the very word of God**. He has been doing this by promoting numerous translations and versions which very subtly distort the word of God. Here are just a few of many possible examples...

- Some translations change the word "virgin" in Isaiah 7.14 to "young woman," thus raising doubts about **the virgin birth of Jesus**.
- Other translations are even subtler. They use "virgin" in the main text, but insert a footnote that questions the accuracy of their own translation.

Given that the Gospel of Matthew makes it perfectly clear that the word "virgin" was intended by Isaiah, there can be no doubt that many of the people who 'translate' these 'Bibles' are being **deliberately mischievous**. Satan makes extensive use of pseudo Christians to cunningly change the word of God.

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ... And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:1-5)

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a **virgin** shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Behold, a **virgin** shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Matthew 1:23)

In many cases, the distortions are so blatant that there can be no doubt the translators were **deliberately** trying to pervert the word of God.

For example, one translation changes John 1.1 to read “**and the word was a god**” instead of “**and the Word was God.**” (This change was made to support the false doctrine – endorsed by Satan! – that Jesus was created by God.)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God.** (John 1:1)

Satan will counterfeit the resurrection of Jesus

During the Tribulation described in the Book of Revelation, the Antichrist will ascend from the pit (abussos), thus **counterfeiting the resurrection** of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Moreover, the Antichrist will bear the marks of an apparent “**deadly wound**” – perhaps the scars of a severed head.

The fact that the Antichrist lives, despite this mortal wound, will make it **SEEM** that he has in fact been resurrected from the dead.

...the beast [Antichrist] that **ascendeth out of the bottomless pit** shall make war... (Revelation 11:7)

And I saw one of his [Antichrist] heads as it were **wounded to death**; and his **deadly wound was healed**: and all the world wondered after the beast. (Revelation 13:3)

Right to the very end, Satan will continue to do the following:

Hinder the work of God's servants.

Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but **Satan hindered us.**
(1 Thessalonians 2:18)

Blind the minds of unbelievers to the truth of the gospel.

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, **then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.** This is he which received seed by the way side. (Matthew 13:19)

In whom **the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,** lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Constantly accuse Christians before God.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...for the **accuser [Satan]** of our brethren [Christians] is cast down, which **accused them before our God day and night.** (Revelation 12:9-10)

Afflict people with physical, mental and spiritual diseases – assisted by his demon hoard.

So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and **smote Job** with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. (Job 2:7)

And, behold, there was a woman which had **a spirit of infirmity eighteen years,** and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. (Luke 13:11)

Strive to undermine the sanctity of marriage and family life.

Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband... Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, **that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.**
(1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

Tempt and ensnare people with his wiles.

And that they may recover themselves out of the **snare of the devil**, who are taken captive by him at his will. (2 Timothy 2:26)

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the **wiles of the devil**. (Ephesians 6:11)

Satan's final destiny

Armageddon

On a dire, dreadful day in the future, **Satan will make one gargantuan attempt to prevent the Messiah's return**. His whole campaign will focus on the **total destruction of Israel**.

Satan's armies will gather from around the world and mass on the plains of Israel, in the vicinity of a hill called Har Megiddo, near the city of Jerusalem.

Thus will begin **“the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”**

Very shortly after this battle commences, it will look as if **the entire Jewish nation will be completely destroyed** – every man, woman and child. Satan will take **NO PRISONERS**.

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to **gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty**. (Revelation 16:14)

And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue **Armageddon**. (Revelation 16:16)

The Messiah Returns

Israel receives the Messiah

Just when it appears that Satan has achieved ultimate victory, the remnant of Jews still alive will finally recognize Jesus as their Messiah and call upon him to come and save them.

And Jesus WILL come and he WILL save them!

[Israel calls upon the Messiah] Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. (Hosea 6:1)

And I [the Messiah] will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; (Zechariah 12:10-12)

The Battle of Armageddon

The final battle commences

The Messiah, Our Lord Jesus and his armies, will come down from heaven, riding white horses.

Are you a born-again Christian? Then **YOU will be following** close behind him!

The Messiah will confront Satan's armies near a place called Bozrah.

And I saw heaven opened, and **behold a white horse**; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and **in righteousness he doth judge and make war**. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: **and his name is called The Word of God**. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

(Revelation 19:11-14)

And I saw the beast [Antichrist], and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together **to make war against him [Jeus Christ]** that sat on the horse, and against his army.

(Revelation 19:19)

I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; **I will surely gather the remnant of Israel**; I will put them together as the sheep of **Bozrah**, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men. (Micah 2:12)

Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, **and spread his wings over Bozrah**: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.

(Jeremiah 49:22)

The Battle is Over!

With a single word – the “sword which proceeded out of his mouth” – the Messiah defeats the enemy.

- The hellish armies are destroyed.
- Satan himself is bound and cast into prison.

Thus begins the **Kingdom Age** (which we will not explore in this paper).

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. **And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. (Revelation 19:19-21)**

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, **And cast him into the bottomless pit**, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. (Revelation 20:1-3)

Satan's last stand and final destiny

After 1000 years, God will release Satan from his prison in the bottomless pit.

Why will God release his enemy? God doesn't say. Perhaps our gracious and merciful God will give Satan one final chance to repent – a thousand years to think things over.

Some have asked if God would forgive Satan, were he to repent. Many Christians are convinced that he would.

In any event, Satan does **NOT** repent but launches into yet another futile attempt to destroy God's people.

This marks the **END of God's tolerance**. Satan is banished for all eternity to the lake of fire.

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
(Revelation 20:7-10)

Note: The following section was added by the webmaster of *www.zephaniah.eu*.
It is based on the writings of Bill Schnoebelen.

Some closing remarks about Satan and his power

- 1.** Satan can only be in one place at one time. However, his demon hoards are located all over the planet.
- 2.** Satan is not all-knowing – he depends on his demon hoards to supply him with information.
- 3.** Satan does not know the future. He cannot prophesy. But he does know the Bible inside out.
- 4.** Satan has comparatively little power in the lives of born-again Christians. His great strength is his incredible skill in the art of deception and disinformation, and his tireless ability to devise an endless supply of lies, including lies of devastating subtlety.
- 5.** Satan is unoriginal. He has no creativity whatsoever. Most of his works are distortions of what God has already made. He continually recycles the tired old lies he has been using for centuries.
- 6.** Satan is incredibly intelligent and would appear to have an extensive knowledge of what we know today as science and technology. He also has an amazing grasp of human psychology and human weakness.
- 7.** Satan is an egomaniac. He is still convinced that he can overcome God. His pride often means that he overplays his hand. He believes his own lies.
- 8.** Satan cannot comprehend compassion or self-sacrifice. He is in every sense a psychopath.
- 9.** Satan has absolutely no power whatever compared to God.

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