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**THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN**

**Introduction:** To study a subject of such serious concern to the unbeliever and believer alike requires a serious and sober spiritual approach. First of all, Satan desires to influence and impact both with confusion concerning his power1, position2, plans3 and purpose4. Secondly, there is a danger in falling prey to his subtlety and becoming snared by curiosity, even obsessed or enamored by the false claims and deception of the devil.

(II Cor. 2:11) “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

Historically the influence and impact of Satan have been felt by societies world over and almost every culture bear witness of an evil force, of a fearful power and personality that can possess body, soul and spirit of man. Voodoo dolls, witch doctors, demonic influence, idol worship, trances, seances, evil practices, etc. Lots of questions can be answered from scripture concerning Satan.

**THE EXISTANCE OF SATAN:** Who he is, where he is, what he does and why he exists are revealed in scripture, but speculation and deception provide ulterior impressions.

1. **Satan’s existence is doubted by the world:**
	1. **Seen by the cartoon characterization – Disney and others,** red suit, horns, pitchfork, pointed tail, pitching coal in hell, goatee, hoofs, etc.5

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* 1. **Silence of Liberal pulpits –** teaching on the subject of the devil, demons on the diabolical leader of evil are no longer “relevant”. The old devil, the new birth, no more damned, no more darkness, no more fire, flames, or fear. Good and Evil.6
	2. **Silence of Conservative pulpits –** preachers do not preach or teach the whole counsel of God concerning, sin, Satan, demons, evil, wickedness, ungodly idolatry, death, darkness, hell, damnation, judgment, etc.7

**NOTE:** The average professing Christian, community and congregation attributes much of Satan’s activity against them professing faith and the resulting indifferences to 1. The Pastor8, 2. Policies9, 3. Programs10, 4. People in the pew11, 5. Problems – politically/socially or personally12 but never consider the personal work13 of the one pointed to in scripture.

“If I were the devil, I would distract attention from myself, deny my existence, down play my abilities, and denounce any attempts to defeat me as a waste of time and effort because I simply do not exist, thus deferring to others the work I myself would be responsible for. This way I could move about unhindered, unopposed and uninhibited. If true Bible believing Christians discovered my presence they would band together in prayer, seeking the fulness of the Holy Spirit, rebuking satanic power, and my presence, pleading the blood of Jesus and claiming the victory by resisting, refuting and recognizing my attacks.”

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1. **Satan’s existence is declared by the Bible:**
	1. **The devil is mentioned seven times in the Old Testament books,** Genesis, I Chronicles, Job (12 times), Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah.
	2. **Satan is found in nineteen New Testament books** and referred to by all of the penmen of the New Testament.
	3. **Satan is referred to by our Lord Jesus Christ fifteen times. Consider a few of these examples.**
		1. (Mt. 4:10) a real manifest, vile personage, named Satan, who tempted the Saviour to sin, Jesus rebuked him directly with scripture…
		2. (Mt. 16:23) Jesus revealed the hidden satanic influence Simon Peter was experiencing causing his unholy rebuke.
		3. (Lk. 22:31) Once again Jesus reveals the satanic influence on Peter.
		4. (Lk. 10:18) Jesus spoke of seeing Satan fall from his prior place and position in heaven.
		5. (Mt. 25:41) Jesus reveals the final dwelling place of Satan following the judgment of God against his sinful rebellion.
		6. (Jn. 8:44) Jesus attributes the evil, seducing, ungodly conduct of the unbelieving Scribes and Pharisees to the works of Satan.
		7. (Jn. 6:70) Jesus reveals that one of his twelve disciples is already being influenced by Satan, and ultimately will be possessed by Satan.

**IF WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE, WE CANNOT DENY THE EXISTENCE OF SATAN**

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**THE ORIGIN OF SATAN:** Why did God make him? Why doesn’t God destroy him? The answer to those two questions? He didn’t14 and He will15.

There are two significant passages in the Word of God regarding the origin and fall of the devil.

**The Book of Ezekiel:** The prophet Ezekiel was given revelation concerning the coming judgement of God upon the wicked city of Tyre (Ez. 26-28). This had already been fulfilled because the city was sacked by Nebuchadnezzar in 573 B.C and later ultimately destroyed in 332 B.C by Alexander. But in (Ez. 28:12-19) the prophet goes beyond the earthly scene of pronouncing judgment on an earthly king (prince), (Ithbaal II by name) to the created being – vile and vicious, not human but demonic in description, whom we later discover is Lucifer.

**NOTE:** God is using a ‘backdoor’ approach as He often does to address Satan through another source. In (Gen. 3:14) God pronounces doom upon the devil by addressing the serpent. In (Mt. 16:23) Jesus is rebuking Satan while speaking to Peter. Here in Ezekiel God uses the (king-prince) of Tyre to speak against a greater prophecy concerning the devil. Let’s examine the text:

“Thou…(art) full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty” (v:12). No human being is ever described in such a manner, rather the contrary (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10, 23; I Jn. 1:10).

“Thou hast been in Eden the Garden of God” (v:13). This isn’t Adam, he wasn’t dressed like that! “bejeweled with every stone” and fitted in “beautiful settings of finest gold.”

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“…the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes.” (v:13).

“…the anointed cherub that covereth.” (v:14).

**He was anointed:** The Old Testament lists three anointed offices 1. Prophet16, 2. Priest17 and 3. King18. Lucifer held the office – position (under Christ), but he failed and fell from position.

**He was guardian Angel-Cherub:** The cherub’s purpose was to promote and protect the holiness of God. (Gen 3; Ex. 25; I Kings 6; Ezekiel 1; Rev 4). **note**: Biblical and archeological evidences declare their likenesses LION, CALF, MAN, EAGLE. The Gospels present them in Christ, Matthew – LION like king; Mark – calf or ox like servant; Luke – the perfect man, John – the eagle like God. In (Rev. 4:6-8) these special Cherubim share power and purpose in like images.

“…Thine heart was lifted up, because of thy beauty…” (v:17). The first sin presented, PRIDE19! (Pr. 8:13, 11:2, 16:5, 16:18, 18:12, 26:12, 29:23)

**The Book of Isaiah:** (Is. 14:12-14) The “I” problem of pride, the devil says, “I will”, Jesus said “Not my will, but thine be done.”

* + 1. “I will ascend into heaven”. 3 heavens, Satan was cast down from the 3rd heaven (II Cor. 12:2) to the realm within the first 2, earth, but he sought to return to the throne room of God, but his sin separated him.
		2. “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God”. God alone is Jehovah Tse-Sabbaoth, The Lord of Hosts! All the hosts, even the angelic hosts. Satan desired to be Lord over the angles, instead he Lord’s over demons, deceived ones who are in darkness, soon eternal doom.

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* + 1. “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the North.” The seat of authority – THRONE, chief seat, **note**: The priests-scribes- Pharisees-Sadducees sought the seat of Moses. Satan still seeks the seat, judgment seat, white throne, millennial kingdom.
		2. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.” Shekinah glory – the place of God’s presence, (Num. 19:15-23) God shares his glory with no man (Is. 42:8) **note**: There is no glory above God, all glory belongs to God. Satan deceived even himself into believing he could be God.
		3. “I will be like the most High.” Satan choose EL-ELYON, the most high, the strongest strong one. He could have chosen any of 32 primary names El-SHADDAI, the all sufficient one, JEHOVAH-ROHI, the shepherd one, no, he wanted to be the most powerful.

Five foolish “I wills” in the Garden of God contrast with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane “O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I WILL, BUT AS THOU WILT.” (Mt. 26:39)

**THE NAME ‘LUCIFER’ IS ACTUALLY THE ROMAN DESIGNATION FOR MORNING STAR. THE HEBREW HELEL MEANS ‘THE BRIGHT ONE’. THIS REFERENCE ILLUSTRATES THE FACT THAT THE MORNING STAR SPEEDILY DISAPPEARS BEFORE THE FAR GREATER SPLENDOR OF THE RISING SUN! HENCE, THOUGH SATAN MAY APPEAR AS AN ‘ANGEL OF LIGHT’ HE SHALL BE BANISHED TO OUTER DARKNESS AT THE COMING OF THE SON OF GOD.**

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**THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN:**

1. **Satan is a real created being:** He is a fallen angel, from the Celestial world to the physical world. He has been changed by the fall just as believers will be in the resurrection-rapture. Satan had a physical form even in a spiritual realm, not necessarily flesh and blood – Terrestrial body, but a body of substance. (I Cor. 15:39-40).
2. **Satan possess intelligence:** Superior intellect, ability and experience through the ages, not to be trifled with. As believers we are not able to resist or refute his influence in the flesh. Only with the Holy Spirits guidance can we know the truth that makes us free.
3. **Satan possess memory:** He even knows scripture, who said it, what they said, and why they said it. (Mt. 4:6; Lk. 4:6) As the serpent supplanting scripture and substituting his own words. The devil is not ignorant of the Bible, he knows how to twist and manipulate scripture. Satan also remembers the past, he’s fully aware of the present and knows the future!
4. **Satan possess volitional will:** He is able to discern, he has desires, he can decide what to do and not do.
	1. Desire20 – He can choose, he has goals, as we see in scripture (Lk. 22:31).
	2. Pride21– Self arrogance, self-control not spiritual control.
	3. Wrath22– (Rev. 12:12) anger – jealousy – covetousness.
5. **Satan possess organizational ability:** Administration, he is able to accomplish his goals… His rebellion in the beginning, his resistance throughout the ages, his refusal to cooperate, and his rejection of God’s rule will result in His demise. He organized demons, the deception, the darkness of the worlds system…