

# Your Adversary, the Devil: Who is He?

## (Part 1)

**Scripture Reading: Job 1:6-12** 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. 7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. 8 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 evil? 9 Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? 10 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 is increased in the land. 11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. 12 And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

### Introduction.

1. We are warned of our most deadly enemy, **1 Peter. 5:8.**
2. We need a *working knowledge* of Satan to be on *guard* against him.

I. WHO IS SATAN? (Where did he come from? What kind of power does he possess? What can we do about him?)

A. There are **False Doctrines** about the **Devil**,

**1 Timothy. 1:3-4.**

Be careful.

1. *The devil is not a myth.*

a. Man has long ago mythologized Satan ("personification of evil in men's minds").

b. Caricatured and fictionalized out of existence (so to speak).

2. *Liberal theology deconstructs the Bible teaching about Satan.*

-Turn him into either a metaphor for evil, or perhaps “**a member of God's inner council**; a type of chief prosecutor of Heaven” (a “supernatural evil emissary acting on God’s behalf,” 1 Chronicles.

21:1).

B. **Bible** Tells the **Truth** about the **Devil**.

1. The devil is *very real* and continues to be *active* in this world,  
**Genesis. 3:1; Revelation. 12:9, 12**

2. “Ruler of this world” and “god of this age,”  
**John. 12:31; 2 Corinthians. 4:4.**

-He rules this world by *ruling hearts*; “blinds minds;”  
**John. 13:2, 27.**

## II. DEFINING TERMS FROM THE BIBLE. **1 Peter. 4:11**

A. **Satan** (*satanas*): *Adversary* (one who opposes another in purpose or act), cf. **Job 1:6**.

1. Adversary of *God and Christ*, cf. **Mark. 1:13; Luke. 4:8**.

2. Adversary of *God’s people*, **1 Chronicles. 21:1;**  
**Zechariah 3:1-2; Luke. 22:31; 1 Thessalonians. 2:18**  
**(1 Peter. 5:8).**

3. Adversary of *mankind*, **Acts 26:18.**

B. **Devil** (*diabolos*): *Accuser, slanderer*, **John. 8:44.**  
Deceives the world and accuses our brethren, **Revelation. 12:9-10.** He maligns, misrepresents, lies.

1. He *slanders and accuses God to mankind*, **Genesis. 3:4-5.**

a. Accused God of being a liar (discredits God’s integrity),  
**v. 4.**

b. Accused God of having evil motives (selfishness), **v. 5.**

c. He afflicts men, tempting us to accuse God, **Acts 10:38.**

2. *He slanders and accuses man to God*, **Job 1:8-12; 2:3-6.**

C. Satan is **not** the Biblical **Lucifer**, **Isaiah. 14:12.** “(Latin for “light-bearer”), name for the planet Venus when it appears as the morning star; Vulgate translation of the Hebrew expression for “bright one.” (*Encarta 97, Lucifer*)

1. Context: King of Babylon, **Isaiah. 14:3-4, 10-11, 13-15, 16-17.**

2. Jerome (Latin Vulgate, 384 AD): "The identification of Isaiah's Lucifer with the Devil began with Saint Jerome and other Fathers of the Church, who held that Jesus implied the identification when he said, 'I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven' (**Luke 10:18**). Consequently, in Patristic literature, Lucifer is used as a synonym for Satan." (Ibid)

### III. APPLICATIONS FOR US.

A. The **Devil does not Want You to Understand** Him or **Know** His Tactics, **Eph. 6:11**. (*wiles*: "methods," schemes, tricks)

1. He is *always seeking an advantage* over us,

**2 Corinthians. 2:11**.

2. He *disguises himself* in order to deceive,

**2 Corinthians. 11:14 (Galatians. 1:8)**.

a. He will use *your strongest desires* (including righteous ones), to tempt you to sin. Cf. the temptations of Jesus,

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

b. He will use *your closest relations* to try to undermine your resolve to be faithful to God, cf. **Job 2:9-10**.

c. He will use *smooth words and flattery* to mislead and deceive you, **Romans. 16:17-20**. cf. False teachers,

**1 Corinthians. 2:1-4**

B. We Can **Overcome** the Devil, **1 Peter. 5:9**

(**Revelation. 12:10-11**).

-It is not inevitable and *unavoidable* that we fall under Satan's power.

1. Resist him steadfast in the faith, **1 Peter. 5:9**.

2. Submit to God and resist the devil – He will flee, **James. 4:7**.

3. The power of Christ is stronger than Satan, **1 John. 3:8; 4:4**.

4. Give no place to the devil, **Ephesians. 4:27**. Do not yield ground ( **Galatians. 2:5**).

5. Stand against the devil and his methods, **Ephesians. 6:11**. Put yourself against him and endure, persevere.

## **Conclusion**

1. The reality of Satan compels us to put our faith and dependency in God and not ourselves.
2. The power of Christ and His gospel overwhelms the devil,

# Your Adversary, the Devil: The Origin of Satan

## (Part 2)

**Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:13-18** **13** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: **14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: **15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **16** For by him 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: **17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

### Introduction.

1. Knowing our origin gives our lives context, direction and responsibility.
  - a. Created in the image of God, **Acts 17:29-31**.
  - b. Spiritual origin, **James. 1:18; Galatians. 4:5-7**.
2. Likewise, knowing the origin of our adversary, the devil, gives us context to understand him, to recognize his tactics, and to know his weaknesses (**2 Corinthians. 2:11**).

### I. THE ORIGIN OF SATAN: FROM WHERE DID SATAN COME?

-Much of the (limited) information in the Scriptures about his origin requires using *necessary inferences* to help us discern his origin.

-We must *be careful* to sort out and distinguish men's traditions and fiction from Biblical content, context and conclusions.

-Example: Using **Isaiah. 14:12** (king of Babylon) and **Ezekiel. 28:11-26** (king of Tyre) to explain the origin of Satan is a faulty way to interpret Scripture.

#### A. What the **Bible does not Say** about the **Origin** of **Satan**.

-*Bible does not say Satan is a fallen angel whom God kicked out of heaven*. Distortions of **Ezekiel. 28:14-16 (12)**; **Isaiah. 14:12 (4, 16-17)**.

#### B. Satan is a **Created Being**, **Colossians. 1:15-17 (v. 16)**.

\* 1. *Does not mean God created him evil* (which would make God the source of all evil, **Psalms. 5:4; James. 1:13**).

2. Conclude: Satan chose his evil course of conduct in direct contradiction to God.

a. He made sin his career, 1 John. 3:8.

b. Instigator and perpetrator of murder (physical and spiritual, leading to eternal death), John. 8:44; Hebrews. 2:14.

-Murderer from the beginning: Jesus “charges him with bringing death in all its destructive power upon the whole of mankind.”<sup>[1]</sup>

### C. The **Condemnation** of Satan:

1. *Pride*, 1 Timothy. 3:6.

\* a. “...lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.” (NASV)

b. “...lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.” (NKJV)

2. *Presumption*, cf. Jude 8-9 (6; 2 Peter. 2:4) Rejected God’s authority and glory.

3. *Prevarication* (lying), John. 8:44. (A murderous liar)

## II. THE LIMITATIONS OF SATAN.

A. Satan was **not Strong Enough** to **Defeat Christ**, Revelation. 12:7 (1-6); John. 12:31.

B. By Christ’s Power, Satan has been “**Cast Out**” / “**Cast Down**” from his **Position of Strength** over Sinners, Rev. 12:10.

-The power of the fear of death, Hebrews. 2:14-15.

C. Satan is **not All-Powerful**, cf. Job 1:12; 2:6. He acts within the boundaries established by God.

\* 1. God’s *controlling hand* is present to protect His people.

2. *What about demonic possession?*

a. Its end anticipated and predicted, Zechariah. 13:1-2.

b. Jesus has broken Satan’s power, Matthew. 12:22, 29; 1 John. 3:8.

\* 3. *Satan acts within the constraints of our freewill choices* – he does not exercise involuntary dominance over anyone, Ephesians. 6:11-13 (cf. Judas, John. 13:2, 27).

4. *He is bound by the superior power of Christ*, Revelation. 20:2. (cf. A dog on a chain can still bite you if you get too close!)

D. Satan is **not All-Present**, cf. Luke. 4:13; James. 4:7.

-You can resist Satan and he will flee.

## Conclusion

1. There are simply some things about Satan that are not revealed to us ([Deuteronomy. 29:29](#)).
2. Enough is revealed about Satan's origin to know he arrogantly chose not to honor God, to fight against the purposes of God, and to lie to and murder mankind, God's highest creation.
3. Satan is not all-powerful; He is restrained by God and defeated in Christ ([1 John. 3:8](#)).
4. His lies are attractive, yet deadly. His end is eternal destruction. In Christ, our reward is eternal life, [Revelation. 20:10](#); [Matthew. 25:21](#).

# Your Adversary, the Devil: His Temptations

## (Part 3)

**Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16** 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### Introduction.

1. If Satan is not real to us, then neither is sin and death.
2. When Satan is not real, then overcoming temptations becomes about “self-improvement,” not about our salvation from sin and eternal life.
3. The temptations of Satan are personal, directed and powerful; they are his specific opportunities against you and me, **Luke. 4:13** (opportune).
4. Strong faith in Christ is essential to overcoming, **Ephesians. 6:10-11**.

I. SATAN, TEMPTATION AND YOU, **2 Corinthians. 2:11** (methods, **Ephesians. 6:11**).

A. Satan **Entices** us to Sin by Using Our **Strong Desires** (lusts), **James. 1:13-14**.

-Temptations of Jesus shows this, **Matthew. 4:2-4** (life), **4:5-7** (trust in God), **4:8-10** (rule the nations).

B. Some of the **Enticements** Satan Uses to Lure Us to Sin.

1. He presents sin as *pleasurable*, **Hebrews. 11:25**.
  2. He presents sin as *beneficial*, **Genesis. 3:4-5**. cf. **Proverbs. 1:13**
  3. He presents sin as *a personal right*, **Genesis. 3:5**.
  4. He presents sin as *the right way*, **2 Corinthians. 4:3-4**.
  5. He presents sin as *popular*, **Exodus. 23:2** (cf. Noah, **Genesis. 7:1**; **Proverbs. 1:10-11**).
1. Satan entices us to sin by using our strong desires, **James. 1:13-14**.
  2. Strong faith in Christ is essential to overcoming, **Ephesians. 6:10-11**.



## II. RESISTING THE TEMPTATIONS OF SATAN.

A. His Temptations can be **Resisted**, **1 Corinthians. 10:13**;  
**Ephesians. 4:27 (6:11-13)**.

B. Satan is **Overcome** by Three Fundamental Things, **Revelation. 12:11**.

1. *The blood of Jesus*, **Hebrews. 2:14-15**.

2. *The word of God* (the gospel, truth), **Ephesians. 6:13-17**.

3. *Self-denying faith* (godly priorities), **Revelation. 2:10**. Personal faith at work; faith that sacrifices self in order to serve God.

C. How We **Resist** the **Temptations** of Our Enemy, the **Devil**.

1. *Become a Christian*; Saved by the blood of Jesus, **Acts 22:16**.

2. *Identify, understand and avoid his deceptive methods*, **2 Corinthians. 2:11; 11:3**. We must know his tactics. The word of God must have prime place in our hearts (**Psalms. 119:10-11**).

3. *Flee from the temptation*, **2 Timothy. 2:22; 1 Thessalonians. 5:21-22**.  
Self-denial

4. *Confront the devil*, **James. 4:7**. Stand opposite to him, against.

a. Jesus did, **Matthew. 4:10; 16:23**. (Word of God)

b. Withstand temptations with steadfast faith and truth, **1 Peter. 5:9**.

5. *Pray with watchfulness*, **Matthew. 26:41**.

6. *Realize you are not alone*, **1 Peter. 5:9 (1 Corinthians. 10:13)**. Our brotherhood is a strong help to withstand temptation. Common faith.

7. *Develop a greater desire for God's blessing through endurance than sin's pleasure through indulgence*, **James. 1:12**. (Faith at work)

8. *Trust God's ability to deliver us*, **Matthew. 6:13; 2 Peter. 2:9**. Word of God, **Hebrews. 13:5-6**.

## Conclusion

1. Christ is touched with sympathy and has compassion for us in our weaknesses (when the temptation prevails, we yield and we sin),  
**Hebrews. 4:15**.

2. God's throne of grace is our bold relief and sure hope in our time of need, **Hebrews. 4:16; 2:18**.

3. *"Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of*

*the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” (Revelation. 12:10–11)*

# Your Adversary, the Devil: What To Do Now?

## (Part 4)

**Scripture Reading: Romans 8:35-39** 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Introduction.

1. In our series on the devil we have learned:
  - a. [Part 1](#): Who Satan is: Our Adversary and Accuser. He is a real and present danger, [1 Peter. 5:8](#).
  - b. [Part 2](#): Where he came from, his limitations and where he is going, [John. 8:44](#); [Revelation. 20:10](#).
  - c. His temptations and resisting them.
2. Part 5: God has not left us hopeless and helpless against our adversary.
  - a. God's assurances that victory over sin and death is real.
  - b. Satan will flee from us as we live by faith, trusting and obeying the Lord's will for our lives.

### I. WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT SATAN.

A. **Know** and **Trust** that **Jesus** has Already **Landed a Death-Blow** against Satan, [Genesis. 3:15](#); [Hebrews. 2:14-15](#) ([1 John. 3:8](#)).

-The cross of Christ and His resurrection defeats Satan's use of sin and death to try to destroy our souls.

A. Our **Faith Assures** Us that **Satan** is **Under a Death Sentence**, [Revelation. 20:12](#) [Matthew. 25:41](#).

-Keep our faith focused on Jesus, [1 John. 4:4](#); [Hebrews. 12:1-2](#).

C. **God Crushes Satan** under **Our Obedient Feet**, [Romans. 16:19-20](#).

D. **Ways** that **God Crushes Satan Under Our Feet**.

1. *When we put God's word in our heart*, [Mark. 4:14-15](#) ([Psalms. 119:11](#); [Proverbs. 7:3](#)); [Colossians. 3:16](#).

2. *When we are spiritually alert*, 1 Corinthians. 16:13; 1 Peter. 5:8. Not distracted, Mark. 4:18-19.

3. *When we are armed and engage the battle*, Ephesians. 6:10-13; 1 Timothy. 6:12.

a. Never think you are above the fray.

b. "I would never be tempted to do that..." – Proudful

(Proverbs. 18:12).

4. *When we exercise self-control*, James. 1:14-15. 1 Corinthians. 7:5; 9:25-27

5. *When we avoid tempting situations and know our escape routes*, Ephesians. 4:27; 1 Corinthians. 10:13.

6. *When we have steadfast personal faith* (built upon the faith),

1 Peter. 5:9; 1 Thessalonians. 3:5.

7. *When we pray without ceasing*, Matthew. 26:41. Hebrews. 4:15-16

8. *When we faithfully worship God*, John. 4:23-24 (Matthew. 4:10).

## **Conclusion**

1. Satan is our adversary and accuser; Jesus is our Savior and Defender, Romans. 8:31-39.

2. "Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James. 4:7