

# THE PERSON AND WORK OF SATAN

## LESSON #9

Memory Verse: John 8:44

*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Satan is the chief enemy of God. His works are characterized by pride, hatred and deception. He opposes everything that God has created. To effectively engage in spiritual warfare, we must understand our enemy. The Scriptures paint a clear image of Satan's history, character, tactics and future. The wise believer will cling to God's revelation about the enemy of our souls.

### I. Satan's Original State

In Ezekiel 28:12-19 God had Ezekiel speak a lamentation over the king of Tyre. In this passage we find a comparison of the king of Tyre to the king of all lies. The symbolism used in this passage refers to none other than Satan. And in this passage we find a clear description of his status as God originally intended it. Satan was originally created to be the highest angel in all of God's creation. There was nothing but perfection found in him.

A. The description of Satan.

1. What three phrases describe Satan in verse 12?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

B. The original condition of Satan.

1. What kind of being was Satan originally (v.14)?<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>1</sup> A cherub (pl. cherubim) is an angel specifically associated with the presence of God and therefore His glory and holiness. In Genesis 3:24 cherubim are placed as guardians blocking the way to the Garden of Eden. In Ezekiel 10:3-22 cherubim are attendants associated with the glory of God. When the content of these passages are combined, we see that cherubim are servants of God who are guardians and/or attendants. This was the kind of creature that Satan was originally created to be.

2. What two descriptors are given about Satan's original condition in verse 15?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Satan's Fall

In Isaiah 14:12-21, the prophet is describing God's judgment on the king of Babylon, but as the passage progresses Isaiah uses words too intense to simply refer to an earthly leader. He is speaking of the fall of Satan.

A. The technicalities of Satan's fall.

1. According to verse 12, from where did Satan fall (c.f. Luke 10:18)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. According to verse 12, to where did he fall (c.f. Ezekiel 28:17)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. The impact of Satan's fall.

1. How did Satan's fall impact the nations (v.12)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. The reason for Satan's fall.

1. How exalted did Satan desire his throne to be (v.13)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. To what status did Satan desire to elevate himself (v.14)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the source of his pride and corruption (Ezekiel 28:17)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## III. Satan's Character

Like fallen humanity, Satan is depraved in every part of his being; but Satan's depravity is distinct in that he is the initiator and author of evil. While humanity inherited its sin nature passively through the federal headship of Adam, Satan became depraved actively and purposefully as the enemy of God and all of God's creation. An evaluation of the names ascribed to Satan is an effective way to study his character.

A. Read the following passages and fill in the names on the following chart.<sup>2</sup>

Name	Meaning	Passage
	Adversary	Matthew 4:10
	Slanderer	Matthew 4:1
	Intrinsically evil	John 17:15
	Destructive creature	Revelation 12:3, 7, 9
	Deceiver in Eden	Revelation 12:9
	Destruction	Revelation 9:11
	Destroyer	Revelation 9:11
	Opponent	1 Peter 5:8
	Lord of the flies (Baalzebub)	Matthew 12:24
	Worthless (Beliar)	2 Corinthians 6:15
	Controls philosophy of world	2 Corinthians 4:4
	Rules in world system	John 12:31
	Control of unbelievers	Ephesians 2:2
	Opponent	Matthew 13:28
	Solicits people to sin	Matthew 4:3
	Leads people to eternal death	John 8:44
	Perverts the truth	John 8:44
	Opposes believers before God	Revelation 12:10

B. Answer the following questions regarding the above chart.

- List several characteristics of Satan that stand out to you from the “meaning” column of this list. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- List several ways in which Satan’s character differs from that of fallen humanity and several ways in which his character parallels that of fallen humanity. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, (Chicago, IL.: Moody Press, 1989), 293.

#### IV. Satan's Work on Earth

Satan is the avowed enemy of God. He opposes God's purposes, as well as His creation, including angels and humans. Satan is such an enemy of God that his will is always directly opposed to the will of God. There are two great kingdoms in conflict: (1) God's kingdom, made up of the Trinity, God's angelic agents, and His human agents (i.e. believers); (2) Satan's kingdom, made up of himself, his angelic agents (i.e. demons), and his human agents (i.e. unbelievers). Satan's purpose on earth is to counter and destroy God's kingdom.

A. Satan's work on earth is characterized by direct opposition to God.

1. Read Genesis 3:1-6, 13-15. What was Satan's purpose in tempting Eve in the garden? How was this temptation aimed at hurting God (c.f. Genesis 1:31)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does Satan's temptation of Christ in Luke 4:1-13 demonstrate his opposition to God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Explain how Luke 22:3-4 shows Satan's enmity toward God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What type of hatred will Satan have for the Creator throughout history until the second coming of Christ (Revelation 20:7-8)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Satan's work on earth also involves unseen spiritual battles among heavenly forces that result in tangible results on earth.

1. What insight does Jude 9 give us concerning the evil ones opposition to God's angels? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Daniel 10:13 speaks of an angel who receives the help of Michael the arch-angel. How does this verse add to your understanding of the activity that goes on in the spiritual realm? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What insight does Revelation 12:7 give us concerning Satan's opposition to God's angels in the tribulation to come? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Satan opposes all of humanity. His goal is to deceive them and ultimately bring them into the judgment he himself will one day face.

1. The devil is active in keeping unbelievers under his deluding influence.

a. What does Ephesians 2:2 teach us about the direction of the unbelieving world?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. According to 1 John 5:19, what is the extent of the devil's influence over humanity? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Explain how Revelation 12:9 adds to our knowledge of the extent of Satan's ability to deceive? \_\_\_\_\_

d. How does Satan oppose the lost (2 Corinthians 4:4)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. How does Satan show hatred toward those in 2 Timothy 2:24-26 who are in need of God's rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

f. What kind of Satanic work did Jesus reverse according to Acts 10:38? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Unlike the unregenerate, believers are capable of withstanding Satan's deluding influence and fiery attacks because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. With vigilance in prayer and faithfulness to the Scriptures, the child of God will live in victory over the evil one.

a. What does Satan desire to do to believers (1 Peter 5:8)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Describe the devil's activities against the believers in the church of Smyrna (Revelation 2:10)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Re-read Ephesians 6:11-12. What does this passage tell us about Satan's tenacity in opposing believers and about the believer's defense from his evil attacks? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- d. How do Job 1:9-11 and 2:4-5 relate to the title given to Satan in Revelation 12:10? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. What kind of influence did Satan wield in 1 Chronicles 21:1? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f. How does Satan oppose the gospel (Mark 4:15)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g. How does Satan oppose the church (1 Thessalonians 3:5)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- h. What can we learn from Luke 22:31-32, Job 1:12, and Job 2:6 about Satan's limitations concerning his desire to attack believers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*For when Satan is called the god and prince of this world, when he is spoken of as a strong armed man, the spirit who holds power over the air, a roaring lion, these descriptions serve only to make us more cautious and watchful, and thus more prepared to take up the struggle.<sup>3</sup>*

## V. Satan's Judgment

The reality of the future eternal judgment of Satan is sure and certain. It is also true that the deceiver abides under holy judgment. God will dispense His full fury in His perfect timing.

### A. Satan already stands judged.

1. How does Genesis s Job 1:6-7 inform us of God's judgment on Satan? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What judgment did Genesis 3:14 give Satan immediately? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What judgment does Genesis 3:15 promise for Satan? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion, Volume 1*, translated by Ford Lewis Battles, (Albany, OR.: Ages Software, 1998), 217.

4. How is 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 a form of judgment over Satan? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. When God's full fury is poured out on the kingdom of the devil, the torment will be unparalleled in severity. The lake of fire and brimstone has been especially prepared as the eternal home of the evil one and his demons.<sup>4</sup>

## VI. Personal Application

A. Describe the confidence that you can have knowing that Satan's attacks only happen with God's sovereign permission? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Have you ever heard someone talk about hell in terms of all the fun and rebellious people who will be there and that Satan will be the life of the party? Given what you learned in this study, how will you respond to such comments in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Ephesians 6:10-17 teaches us how to be ready for spiritual warfare with the evil one. List three specific, measurable ways that you will commit to in order to improve your defense against the devils schemes. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>4</sup> Please see lesson #12 for more details.