

## **Myths About Satan**

### Part 1

#### **Introduction.**

1. This lesson will carefully examine some of the common myths about Satan.
  - a. There are many myths about this powerful and influential being who existed prior to the creation of the world and man.
  - b. A careful study of the holy Scriptures will clearly refute these myths.
  - c. Some of these myths basically make Satan an eternal god, that is, a being who co-existed with the God of heaven and has always been at war with God.
2. Satan is also known by other names in the Scriptures.
  - a. He is frequently called “the devil.” (Matt. 4:1,5).
  - b. Here are some of his other names and descriptions.
    - 1) He is called “the tempter.” (Matt. 4:3; 1 Thess. 3:5).
    - 2) He is called the “dragon.” (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7).
    - 3) He is called Beelzebul. (Matt. 12:24). “Beelzebul” originally had the idea of “lord of the house” or “dung god,” but it seems Jesus used it to mean “the prince of demons.”
    - 4) He is called “the prince of demons.” (Matt. 12:24).
    - 5) Paul called him “an angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14).
    - 6) He is called our “adversary.” (1 Pet. 5:8).
    - 7) He is called “the father of lies.” (Jn. 8:44).
3. **It is important we study some of the common myths about Satan.**
  - a. Some of these myths are even believed by Christians and are also instilled in their children and grandchildren and other family members.
  - b. It is important that we believe and teach what the Bible teaches about Satan and not believe or perpetuate these myths.

#### **Satan Is A Myth**

1. There are countless people who believe that Satan is a myth.

2. They do not believe Satan exists or has ever existed.
3. They reject the notion that Satan is an evil being that has been working since the creation of man to hurt and bring about the condemnation of all mankind.
4. They fail to accept that Satan is a real, powerful being **who wants none to be save**
5. He desires that all human beings be cast into hell that he may afflict and torment them.
6. Satan seeks to hurt God by bringing about the condemnation of those God created in His image and desires to be saved.

### **Satan Is Lucifer**

1. A very common myth of Satan is that his name is Lucifer.
  - a. In the King James Version of the Bible, Isaiah 14:12 reads:  
 “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!”
  - b. The term “Lucifer” was taken by the King James Version translators from Jerome’s Latin Vulgate (383-405 A.D.) edition of the Bible.
  - c. The Hebrew word is Heylel’ which suggests the idea of “shining,” or “bearing light” or “light bearer.”
  - d. Jerome assumed the word was the name of the morning star, hence, he rendered it by the Latin title “Lucifer.”
  - e. Over time the idea developed that Isaiah 14 contained a description of Satan’s original fall.
  - f. The term Lucifer came to be applied to the devil and the designation is commonly employed today.
  - g. The fact is, however, there is absolutely no evidence whatever that Isaiah 14 contains any reference to Satan.
2. Here are some things that refute that Satan is Lucifer.
  - a. It would be strange indeed that the Holy Spirit should designate the ruler of the realm of spiritual darkness as “lightbearer.”
  - b. Jesus described Satan with these words. (Jn. 8:44).

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.

- c. Paul described him in this manner. (Eph. 6:12).

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual {forces} of wickedness in the heavenly {places.}

d. The context clearly identifies the narrative as a taunt against the king of Babylon. (14:4).

Is 14:4 that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, "How the oppressor has ceased, {And how} fury has ceased!

e. The death of that oppressive character is vividly described.

f. He descends into Sheol [the dwelling place of wicked spirits] where the inmates of that realm taunt, saying, "Is this the man that made the earth to tremble?" (14:16).

1) "Hades" is the Greek word for the Hebrew "Sheol" and they are used in the Bible to mean either the "grave" or "the abode of wicked spirits."

3. Furthermore, this passage cannot be an allusion to the devil for the following reasons.

a. Worms are said to eat this body (Isa. 14:11), yet Satan has no body.

Is 14:11 'Your pomp {and} the music of your harps Have been brought down to Sheol [grave]; Maggots are spread out {as your bed} beneath you And worms are your covering.'

b. The subject of the account is called a "man" (v. 16), but the Tempter is a spirit being.

Is 14:16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, {saying,} **Is this the man who made the earth tremble**, Who shook kingdoms,

c. He is to be buried in shame (vv. 19, 20)—a circumstance which is not applicable to the devil (cf. Rev. 20:10).

Is 14:19 "But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse.

Is 14:20 "You will not be united with them in burial, Because you have ruined your country, You have slain your people. May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

d. In the Old Testament, the demise of corrupt national powers is frequently represented under the imagery of falling heavenly luminaries (cf. Isa.13:10; Ezek. 32:7),

e. Hence, quite appropriately in this context the Babylonian monarch is described as a fallen star (cf. ASV).

f. There is no reference to Satan in this context.

3. Isaiah 14 is not speaking of Satan or his fall, but it is speaking of the fall of Nebuchnezzar, the king of Babylon.

a. Making it refer to Satan or his fall is not supported the context.

b. It is a clear reference to Nebuchnezzar - the famous ruler of Babylon.

### **Satan Is Not Eternal**

1. God is eternal. (Deut. 33:27; Psa. 90:2; 102:27).

Deut 33:27 "The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, 'Destroy!'"

Ps 90:2 Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Ps 102:27 "But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.

a. Jesus is eternal. (Isa. 9:6-7; Jn. 1:1-3; 17:5).

Is 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ASV and NKJV have "everlasting Father." Jesus is eternal and everything created was created "through Him."

Is 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of {His} government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

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

John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John 17:5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

b. The Holy Spirit is eternal. (Heb. 9:14).

Heb 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**Note:** Only the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are eternal. Everything else has been created.

2. Some falsely believe Satan is eternal.

a. This erroneous notion does not agree with the Scriptures and seeks to make him a god.

b. He is spoken of "as the god of this world" meaning mankind submits to him, but not meaning he is Deity. (2 Cor. 4:4).

c. He is not eternal nor Deity, but the world has made him a god by submitting to him and believing he has all or most of the attributes and powers of God.

3. Not much is known about the beginning of Satan, but the Bible does not teach Satan is eternal.

4. Satan is a created being. (Col. 1:16).

Col 1:16 For by Him **all things were created**, {both} in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

- a. Paul, by inspiration, reveals “all things were created” by Jesus and this agrees with the opening verses of the gospel of John. (Jn. 1:1-3).
- b. He was created as a good angel before the world began, but before the world came into existence he led a rebellion against God. (Jude 1:6; 2 Pet. 2:4).

Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, Angels were created as creatures of choice, but some rebelled against God.

2 Pet 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; “Hell” here is translated from the Greek “tartaroo,” not from “gehenna” meaning “hell.” Tartarus is the prison of wicked angels. It is not certain if it is the same as Hades. Some believe it denotes the deepest abyss of Hades. For certain the wicked angels are being punished in Tartarus.

- 1) As already mentioned this rebellion was before the world was created.
- 2) Satan existed before the creation of the universe and man, and he appeared to Adam and Eve as a snake.
  - He is not a snake, but he disguised himself as a snake. (2 Cor. 11:14; Rev. 12:9; 20:2).
  - The devil is always seeking to alienate people from God. (Job 1-2; Zech. 3:1).
  - Satan took control of a snake for the purpose of seducing man. (2 Cor. 11:3).

2 Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity {of devotion} to Christ.

- Satan is not an animal, but God allowed him to disguise himself as a snake to tempt man.
- God did not create robots, but He created both angels and men with the right and ability to choose both good and evil.
- Satan appeared in the form of a snake to bring sin and condemnation to Adam and Eve and to all their descendants.

- c. Satan is the wicked leader of the fallen angels.

- 1) The Bible speaks of the devil and his angels. (Matt. 25:41).

Matt 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

- 2) God has reserved the everlasting chains of hell for the devil and his angels. (Jude 6).

Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

## 5. The devil was not created evil, but became evil!

- a. God is not the Creator of evil!

b. He is the source of everything good. (Jan. 1:17).

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

c. Satan and his fellow angels are beyond redemption.

d. There is no hope for their salvation and they know it.

e. The Bible clearly teaches Jesus did not die for the angels. (Heb. 2:16).

Heb 2:16 For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendants of Abraham.

f. "The descendants of Abraham" is not a reference to all his physical descendants, but to Jews and Gentiles who have the faith of Abraham. (Gal. 3:7, 29).

Gal 3:7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

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