

## The Enemy Out There

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There is an enemy out there that we face everyday. He is a deceitful enemy. He is cunning, conniving, subtle and sly. He is also a master of disguise and camouflage.

This enemy is not the rapist out on the streets. He is not the murderer, prostitute or the pornographer. In fact, terrorism is not even our enemy.

Our enemy is none other than Satan himself!

Satan is known as a subtle serpent (Genesis 3:1), as a tempter, even of our Lord (Matthew 4:1), as the prince of this world (John 12:31), as a great dragon (Revelation 12:9) and as the accuser (Revelation 12:10). In John 8:44, Jesus tells us "... *He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.*"

There is one question that is often asked: "If Satan is so crafty and evil, why then did God create him?" The simple fact is that God did not create the devil. God created a perfect angel. In Ezekiel 28:12-15, Satan is described:

*"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. 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. 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."*

Here we learn that this angel was full of wisdom and was beautifully perfect. His clothes was adorned with many precious stones with an overlay of gold. He was musically gifted from the beginning. With a melodious voice, he filled the universe with music. In addition, he was a very high ranking angel; an archangel. He was perfect, as all God's creations are, until he made a choice. Let's keep reading ...

*"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. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee"* (Ezekiel 28:16-17).

This angel orchestrated praises to God. Merchandise is that which passes from one hand to another. For example, when you purchase something from a store, that merchandise legally passes from the store's hands into yours. All the praises were passing through this angel's hands and going to God. He wanted some of that praise. He wanted to hold onto the merchandise. He became prideful. This is further illustrated in Isaiah 14:12-14:

*"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. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."*

This perfect angel, called Lucifer, wanted to have the praises all to himself. He wanted to be like God. More than that, he wanted his throne to be above that of God. Pride entered his heart, and because of this, he was cast out of heaven.

By choosing evil, Lucifer, the son of the morning, became the father of the night. His wisdom and beauty became corrupted. But be careful! Even though these attributes have been corrupted, they are still there. In II Corinthians 11:14 Paul says that "*Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*"

If Satan appeared as an angel of light, most people would be tempted to worship him. Satan loves to be worshipped. That is the pride that he has and why he was cast out of Heaven. He loves worship so much that he even tempted our Saviour by offering Him all the kingdoms of this earth if only Jesus would fall down and worship him. What audacity!

If Satan can appear as an angel of light, then his emissaries are the ministers. Paul continues in II Corinthians 11:15: "*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.*" If you want to find Satan, first look in the pulpit.

My friend, let me tell you – Satan is real! He is as real as you and me. However, according to a Barna survey in 2005, 60% of adults say that Satan is only a symbol of evil. This is compared to 58% in 2001. And in that same survey, almost half

(46%) of born again Christians deny Satan's existence (in the case of Catholics, it's 73%!).<sup>1</sup>

How can people claiming to be Christians not believe in Satan but claim to believe in the Bible? It is because of Satan's lies. Remember earlier, in John 8:44, Jesus tells us that Satan is the father of lies. He's a master at it! And his lies are very subtle – very close to the truth.

To illustrate, imagine a clock that has stopped working. We may say that this clock is correct twice a day, but it is also very obvious at other times that this clock is wrong. But take a clock that is only five minutes slow, and you could miss your plane. In the same way, a lie that is very close to the truth is more dangerous than an outright, obvious one.

Jesus also says that Satan is a murderer. He wants to bring to you death; physical, spiritual and eternal death. And he does this through lies and deceptions. From the very beginning, Satan has been using lies; and they are lies about God. If Satan can twist your idea of what God is and does and is like, then he has you.

These lies that Satan uses are as fresh today as they were eons ago. Please read Genesis 3:1-5:

*"Now the serpent was more subtle 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."*

At first, Satan wants to put doubt into Eve's mind. "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" he asks Eve. In other words, he asks, "Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?"<sup>2</sup> Satan wanted Eve to think that God was withholding something good from her; therefore making God appear to be cruel, harsh and unloving. But this wasn't the case. God told Adam that they could eat any of the fruits that they wanted; it was only from *one* tree that they couldn't touch.

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<sup>1</sup> Beliefs: Trinity, Satan. *The Barna Group* <<http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=Topic&TopicID=6>> February 7, 2006

<sup>2</sup> New Living Translation 1996 Tyndale Charitable Trust

Today, negative thoughts still enter into our minds. How many times have we heard questions such as: "How can a loving God allow suffering?", or "Why do bad things happen to good people?", or "If God is a God of love, then why did He ...?"

These thoughts are just some of Satan's lies. God loves you and desires nothing but the best for you. For example: "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. (Psalm 37:4)", "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11)", and "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy, (I Timothy 6:17)"

God is good! Don't let Satan or anyone else tell you differently!

Not only is Satan trying to convince you that God is not good, but he is also trying to say that God is not honest. By questioning God's statement about the fruit of the trees, Satan is in fact questioning God's Word. He wanted to cast doubt on God's truthfulness.

Does the doubting of His honesty still happen in today's age? Do you doubt what He has told you? Do you doubt the complete accuracy of his Word? In Titus 1:2, we read, "*In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.*"<sup>3</sup> God cannot lie! If God says something, you can count on it!

The devil is out to cause skepticism about the authority, the accuracy, the infallibility, and the authenticity of the Word of God. And anyone that does the same is doing the work of the devil. Look at a few common rationalizations about God and His Word.<sup>4</sup>

- I believe God's Word except for the part that tells about the creation of the world.
- I believe the Bible except for its miracles and supernatural stories.
- I believe the Bible but don't believe in its literal translation.
- I believe the Bible was true when it was written, but must be interpreted now to reflect changes in society.
- I don't believe there is any objective standard of truth.
- The Bible may say ... but I feel that ...
- I believe the part of the Bible that makes good common sense.
- I believe that there are more ways to God than just this one way.

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<sup>3</sup> Emphasis added by author.

<sup>4</sup> Four Lies That Ruined The World *Love Worth Finding* with Adrian Rogers  
<[http://www.lwf.org/CC\\_Content\\_Page/0,,PTID319326|CHID630416,00.html](http://www.lwf.org/CC_Content_Page/0,,PTID319326|CHID630416,00.html)> February 14, 2006

Does any of these sound familiar? They are all lies. Satan is behind each and everyone one of them. Today's society has been infected by these ideas, which are only substitutes for God's truth.

Satan is also trying to say that God is not righteous. Look again at Genesis 3:4, "*And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*"<sup>5</sup> This is contrary to what God said in Genesis 2:17: "*...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*" Satan is trying to convince Eve that God will not punish her sin. If God does not punish sin, then why shouldn't one go ahead and commit sin?

Remember that "*All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23) and that "*the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Romans 6:23). Since God is good and honest, He must also be just. If sin occurs, then He must justly punish it. Not to punish sin would make God dishonest.

Consider the following statements:

- "*We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ*" (Romans 14:10).
- "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*" (II Corinthians 5:10).
- "*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27).

It is through lies and temptations that Satan attacks. Not only did he tempt Eve long ago, but he is still tempting today. In I Timothy 4:1 we read, "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving head to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils ...*"

Even though Satan has been cast out of Heaven, he still has power here on earth. God originally gave Adam dominion over the earth (Genesis 1). The devil then showed up as a "con-man" and, through sin, Adam legally transferred the dominion of the earth over to Satan. Adam then became a slave of sin. Anyone that is born of a slave then becomes a slave himself, thus all of Adams descendents are slaves to sin as well. Adam gave Satan power and authority here on earth.

Jesus Himself called Satan "*the prince of this world*" (John 14:30). In II Corinthians 4:4, Satan is called "*the god of this world,*" while in Ephesians 6:12 he is called "*the ruler of darkness.*"

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<sup>5</sup> Emphasis added by author.

Also notice that, when Satan tempted Jesus by saying he will give Jesus "all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them,"<sup>6</sup> that Jesus did not argue with Satan. Why? Because Satan has legal dominion of the earth.

Satan has waged a war on mankind and has begun a reign of terror here on earth. *"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).

And Satan is attacking. Paul says he *"was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from getting proud."*<sup>7</sup> People are being oppressed by Satan<sup>8</sup> and bound by him.<sup>9</sup>

And he attacks the innocent children as well. Molech was an ancient god that was built of brass with a fire burning in his belly. Children would be placed in this fire and sacrificed to this god. The drums would beat loudly on the sides so the fathers could not hear their son's screams.

Baal, a Canaanite fertility god, would also have children sacrificed to him through fire. Pharaoh killed the Israelite boys born in Egypt. Herod killed children 2 years old and younger. Infanticide has been happening all through history, with newborn babies being abandoned even in today's society.

And Planned Parenthood murders thousands of unborn children each year! Abortion is just a blood sacrifice to the devil!

But all is not lost. Jesus came and died on the cross so *"that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil..."* (Hebrews 2:14), *"and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it"* (Colossians 2:15).

Jesus has defeated Satan. Jesus has taken back what Adam legally gave to Satan, *"saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"* (Matthew 28:18). With Jesus' victory over death, He has broken Satan's back, dashed the crown from his head and smashed it to the ground! And he has given us authority as well: *"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils ..."* (Luke 9:1).

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 4:8 King James Version

<sup>7</sup> II Corinthian 12:7 New Living Translation © 1996 Tyndale Charitable Trust

<sup>8</sup> Acts 10:38 King James Version

<sup>9</sup> Luke 13:16 King James Version

Satan is fighting a losing battle. More than that, Satan has already lost. He is consigned to the pit. *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone"* (Revelation 20:10) that was *"prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matthew 25:41).

When will Satan rule in hell? Never. Satan will never rule in hell, but will suffer and be tormented for all eternity along with his angels and followers. Are you a follower? Have you accepted Jesus as your saviour?

Every war has two sides; the winning and the losing. Jesus has already claimed victory over Satan. He has already won the war.

Which side are you on?