

MASTER DECEIVER

Isaiah 14:12 1 Chronicles 21:1 Ezekiel 28:15

Introduction: Mankind's greatest enemy is a master at deceiving people into believing that he doesn't exist and that stories about him are only that - stories. He is also a master at drawing attention away from God and God's Word. His name is SATAN. He is real, he does exist and is the leader of all the fallen angels of heaven. Jesus spoke about them and the Bible records names, titles, origin, works, power and the limitations of Satan and his followers.

In the very beginning of the history of man, Satan is seen in defiance of God and in the drawing away of man from God. The Bible also reveals that when God brings an end to all things, Satan will be removed and destroyed forever.

I. THE BEGINNING OF SATAN

1. Satan was/is a created being.
 - Satan was created as the greatest of all the angels and was given the heavenly title, "***Lucifer, son of the morning.***" (*Ezekiel 28:15; Isaiah 14:12*)
 - God also called him "***King of Tyrus,***" a title expressing the great depth to which Lucifer had fallen.
 - Satan was "***Lucifer, son of the morning***" which means "day star, light bearer." He was "***full of wisdom and perfect in beauty***" and also "***the anointed cherub that covereth.***" (*Ezekiel 28:12-15*)
2. Satan's unfallen state.
 - *Ezekiel 28:12-15*
 - He overlooked the throne of God and was perfect in all ways "***...till...***" iniquity, sin, rebellion and pride took over.
 - God created all angels but made Lucifer superior in every way, in wisdom, beauty, authority, perfection, and anointed.

II. THE SIN AND FALL OF SATAN

1. What changed Lucifer into Satan, the Devil?
 - Lucifer, "***...the anointed cherub...***" became "Satan" by his introducing the original sin into the universe, caused by his pride.
 - Notice his words caused by his pride in *Isaiah 14:13-14*:
 - "***I will ascend into heaven...***"
 - "***I will exalt MY throne above the stars of God...***"
 - "***I will sit upon the mount of the congregation...***"
 - "***I will ascend above the heights of the clouds...***"
 - "***I will be like the most high...***"
 - Lucifer became Satan by choosing **his own will** above the will of God.
 - **Sin began when Lucifer said in heaven, from his heart, "I WILL..."**

2. The fall of Satan.
 - God determined the sentence/punishment. All creatures are to be "God-centered, not self-centered."
 - The sentence of God was: *Ezekiel 28:16*: "...I will cast thee...out...I will destroy thee.." (*Isaiah 14:12*).
 - We, too, are a part of that fall when we say "I will" and not "God's will."
 - Jesus said that He saw Satan fall from heaven. *Luke 10:18*

III. THE NAMES AND TITLES OF SATAN

1. Satan means "adversary." *1 Chronicles 21:1; 1 Peter 5:8*
 2. Devil means "slanderer." *Revelation 12:9*
 3. Beelzebub as the "prince of demons." *Matthew 12:24*
 4. Belial as the "low one." *2 Corinthians 6:15*
 5. That "old serpent." *Genesis 3:15; Revelation 12:9*
 6. "God" of this world." *2 Corinthians 4:4*
 7. "Prince of the power of the air." *Ephesians 2:2*
 8. "Prince of this world." *John 12:31*
 9. "Dragon." *Revelation 20:2*
 10. "Angel of light." *2 Corinthians 11:14*
 11. "Accuser of the Brethren." *Revelation 12:10*
 12. "Father of lies." *John 8:44*
- (These are but some of the many names for Satan and his character.)

IV. WHERE SATAN IS ACTIVE

1. Believe it or not but Satan has access to the throne of God (*Job 1:6; Revelation 12:10*)
2. Obviously he has access to our world.
 - *Job 1:7; 2:2* speaks of God and Satan in a conversation about Job.
 - Satan appeared in the Garden of Eden. *Genesis 3:1-19*
 - Satan stood against Israel. *1 Chronicles 21:1*
 - Satan has access as prince of the power of the air and rules the darkness of this world and wickedness in high places. *Ephesians 1:2; 6:12*

V. WHAT SATAN DOES HERE ON EARTH

1. Satan tempts people to sin.
 - Satan has always tried to stop God's plan for mankind from the Garden of Eden to the end of time.
 - What Judas Iscariot did to Jesus is an example of Satan's work against God's plan. *Luke 22:3*.
 - Ananias and Sapphira is another example of Satan's work against God's plan. *Acts 5:1-11*

2. Satan deceives mankind.
 - Satan blinds the minds of people. *2 Corinthians 4:4*
 - Satan removes the Word of God from the hearts and minds of people. *Matthew 13:19*
 - Satan traps people. *2 Timothy 2:26; Ephesians 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8*

3. Satan hinders the work of God.
 - Satan opposed and fought against Paul's ministry. *1 Thessalonians 2:18*
 - Satan uses "Godly" actions to his advantage if/when allowed by God. *2 Corinthians 2:11*
 - Satan "sifts" the servants of God. *Luke 22:31*
 - Satan "sows tares" among God's people. *Matthew 13:38-39*
 - Satan constantly causes problems for the servant of God. *2 Corinthians 12:7*

VI. SATAN'S LIMITATIONS

1. Satan is not all powerful.
 - Satan is limited in power by God. He cannot force people to sin. He can tempt, coerce, entice, but has not power to force any body to sin. *Job 1-2*

2. Satan is not all knowing.
 - Satan is wise, the wisest creature God has ever created, but not as wise as God.
 - *1 Peter 5:8; Luke 22:31*

3. Satan cannot be everywhere at the same time as God can.
 - Satan can be in only one place at a time. *Matthew 4:11*
 - Satan has his agents, demons (fallen angels) to send at his pleasure and does have his own kingdom. *Matthew 12:26*

CONCLUSION:

1. Satan is a real, supernatural, created, intelligent, powerful being.
2. Satan is determined to ruin God's plan for mankind.
3. Satan cannot go beyond God's permissive will in his dealings with mankind.
4. Satan is God's number one adversary-enemy, thus also the enemy of every Christian.
5. God always provides a way of escape from Satan for Christians, IF they will take it.
6. Satan and all the fallen angels will be terminated by God at the end of time.
7. Satan has to be dealt with Christian, do it God's way and be win, otherwise, lose.