

SATANOLOGY (2)

QUESTION #1 – Who or what is Satan?

Satan is a high ranking angelic person. When we carefully read Matthew 4:5-10, we may observe the personal pronouns used for Satan. They are the pronouns “he,” “him” and not “it.”

We may establish that Satan is a person because he has all the qualities of a person:

Quality #1 - Satan has an intellect. II Corinthians 11:3

Quality #2 - Satan has emotions. Revelation 12:17

Quality #3 - Satan has a will. Luke 22:31; II Timothy 2:26

Quality #4 - Satan has self-expression. Isaiah 14:13-14

Quality #5 - Satan has perpetuity. Revelation 20:10- a forever existence

We may establish that Satan is an angel because the Bible classifies him as an angel:

Biblical Fact #1 - Direct statements of Scripture declare him to be an angel. Ezekiel 28:14
He is called the “anointed cherub” and the cherub are a class of angels

Biblical Fact #2 - He has angelic accessibility into God’s presence in heaven-

Job 1:6-7- He is present when angels present themselves before God

Revelation 12:7-9- Satan has access to heaven, which is an angelic
Prerogative

Biblical Fact #3 - He is able to maneuver to places as an angel. Matthew 4:5

In realizing that Satan is an angelic person, we must realize he is real, he is unseen (from a human standpoint) and he is powerful. Angels do have superhuman traits and qualities. But it is critical that we always remember that **Satan is finite and he is always subject to God’s supreme sovereignty. We are told in Scripture to “fear God,” not Satan.**

QUESTION #2 – Why study the doctrine of Satan?

We can say, with dogmatic certainty, that Satan does not want us knowing this doctrine, because he never wants anyone to know God’s truth.

Now before we actually answer this question, a couple of cautionary points are in order:

- 1) We must be careful in this study or any study to make sure that we never give God’s adversary attention and honor that only belong to God.
- 2) We must be careful to never allow some unhealthy curiosity to lead us to certain literature or data or practices that can open us up to his deceptive tactics.

Having said this there are at least five reasons why we study Satanology:

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Reason #1 - Because Satan is a person and this doctrine is found in God's Word .

Satan did not have his origin in mythology or in some Zoroastrianism dualistic philosophy of good versus evil, which says there are two divine beings, one good and one evil. Satan has his origin from God and information about him is found in the Word of God. It stands to reason that if we are to learn truth about Satan, it will be from a careful study of the Word of God. Dr. Chafer said: "This mighty angel appears in the Bible with prominence, importance and power second only to the Godhead Three" (Vol. 2, p. 33). God put things in His Word that He wants us to know and Satan is one of the major themes God develops in His Word.

Reason #2 - Because Satan is the originator of sin . Gen. 3:1-14/Ezek. 28:13/I Cor. 11:3

If we are to understand the ramifications of sin, including its power and effects and its consequences, we must understand something about the originator of it. We must be able to clearly defend the reality that evil comes from the "evil one." The more we know about this evil person the more we will know about the evil of sin.

Reason #3 - Because Satan is the supreme opponent of God.

Every military that has ever won a war, every team that has ever won a championship, every student who has consistently done well in school knows the importance of knowing as much as you can about what you are up against.

Satan is the opponent of God. Ignorance of an opponent will never lead to great, consistent victory. It is knowledge and predictability that leads to victory. The more we know about Satan, the more victorious we will be and the more honored God will be.

Reason #4 - Because Satan is seeking to devour believers . I Peter 5:8

Satan is out to cripple or stop God's work in the life of a believer. Undoubtedly, the greatest weapon that Satan uses to accomplish this is ignorance of God's Word. When this life is over and when all is said and done and all judgments have been rendered, it will have been a neglect of God's Word that will have caused defeat in the lives of believers. God's Word is inspired by God and is able to make one wise and mature- "equipped for every good work" (II Tim. 3:15-17).

Satan is seeking to devour believers and the more the believer knows about Satan from God's Word, the less likely he will be to be devoured.

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Reason #5 - Because Satan is a very wise and skilled craftsman. Ephesians 6:11

Satan is waging a war with believers and in many cases he is winning the war. The truth is very few can say with the Apostle Paul- “for we are not ignorant of his schemes” (II Cor. 2:11). Satan is one who is crafty enough to deceive both Jews and Gentiles and Christians. He is crafty enough to deceive all unbelievers and all believers. In fact, as Scripture says, he can “deceive the whole world” (Rev. 12:9).

No believer, no matter how spiritual, on his own, is any match against this mighty angel. He is powerful, he is deceptive and, at times, he is able to topple some of the most powerful people of God. We may recall from Scripture that Satan even momentarily leveled an apostle like Peter (Luke 22:31-34).

It is critical that we learn as much as we can about Satan. We do not do this for reasons that are sensational or supernatural, but for reasons that are spiritual. Knowledge of God’s Word on this subject is a key to being spiritual.

For a believer to remain uninformed or misinformed concerning the greatest enemy of God and ourselves is to automatically give him victory. Satan does not want God’s people knowing the truth of God’s Word about who he is and how he works.

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer wrote: “Should the knowledge of this foe wanting- as it must be so far as usual theological studies are concerned- the results can be no less than tragic, reaching to eternity” (Vol. 2, p. 36). It is for these five main reasons that we study the doctrine of Satan- his person and work. Our goal is not to be fanatical, but very biblical.

QUESTION #3 – What are the various names of Satan and what do they mean?

God uses language to communicate His Word and His truth. Names and titles take on special meaning when they are given by God because they not only enable us to know what the person, place or thing is to be called, but they also give us insight into the character of the person. In the case of Satan, God, by the names he uses in the Bible, gives us a good look at Satan’s person and work. Collectively, these names give us a full picture of both the ways and the wiles of Satan. **As near as we may calculate, there are twenty different names in the Bible that refer to Satan.**

(Name #1) - He is named Satan.

The name Satan (Σατανας) means he is an adversary or one who opposes. The word is pronounced in Hebrew and Greek just as it is in English. Satan is adverse to and opposed to God, God’s Word, God’s will, God’s ways and God’s people. Many contexts use this name to reveal this meaning: Job 1:8-10; Zechariah 3:1; Matthew 4:10; I Thessalonians 2:18; Rev. 2:9,13.