



The obvious is before us. Both good and evil offer specific choices. The individual has a spiritual choice accorded by the **Almighty** and none can negate that special right, not even Satan. Joshua, an Old Testament leader, made it clear when he said, "Choose you this day whom you will serve!" Joshua 24:15

The adversary of all mankind, as well as the adversary of God and everything that is good, is Satan. He offers a choice, too, but the result of his offer is different. Wherever one finds difficulty, Satan is there to intensify the problem. The infliction of human misery is his trademark.

Several names are ascribed to him in the Bible. He is called "**Lucifer**" (Isaiah 14:12-14); "**Devil and Satan**" (Revelation 12:9); "**Beelzebub**" in Matthew 10:25; 12:24. "**Belial**" is the name given to him in II Corinthians 6:15 and "**Adversary**" is used to describe him in I Peter 5:8-9. Other names are "**Dragon**", Revelation 12:3-12, and "**Serpent**", Revelation 12:9. Names which are used to relate to us in easy to understand language are, "**God of this world**" II Corinthians 4:4; "**The Prince of this world**" John 12:31; "**Prince of the Power of the air**" and "**accuser of the brethren**" Revelation 12:10. "**Enemy**" and "**tempter**" along with the "**wicked one**" are also common terms used to describe our common adversary.

None should doubt the purpose of Satan nor his intelligence. When his "fall" is described by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 28), his influence and superhuman power did not seem to diminish. His "fall" related more to position than power. Using the person of the King of Tyre, Ezekiel describes a personality much greater than Ithobalus, the earthly king. He wrote of this "superhuman" personality as having been in "Eden, the garden of God", and described him as being perfect in creation. Beauty and wisdom were given him when created, but these special effects were lost as they, along with his musical and other gifts, were eternally damaged when his heart gave way to pride and selfishness. Ezekiel 28 relates the complete picture of this superhuman personality and his demise.

Satan has been allowed to have almost unlimited influence throughout the earth and such influence extends even to heaven where Christians are accused before God day and night. (Revelation 12:10) The scriptures give us many references relating to turmoil and dissension along with all kinds of problems which are directly associated with Satan. Paul tells us he (Satan) is the author of confusion. (I Corinthians 14:33)

Job told us in his book that Satan has movement throughout the earth and has purpose for his movement. Affliction and destruction along with doubt and depression are his purposes, according to Job. Anything which can be used against God and good, he intensifies.

One should not look for Satan to appear dressed in black attire and wearing a pair of razor sharp horns. He is much too intelligent for such an appearance. There is, however, a way one can easily detect his invisible presence.

Deception may be Satan's greatest weapon. Starting in the Garden of Eden, and used continuously with great success for him, is deception in all facets of life. Religion seems to be his favorite work place. He has used religion to skew people away from the **One True God** and toward other interests. Religion, alone, does not seem to concern Satan, but a **relationship with God**, our Creator, does.

When Jesus Christ came to the earth in person almost 2000 years ago, He did so when the world was full of religion. The "do's" and "don'ts" were taught everywhere. The religious themes were replete with bizarre teachings about everything from human sacrificing to the inability to walk further than a short distance on the Sabbath day. Remember, Jesus attacked those things head on and gave us freedom from such inclusion. Those cumbersome rules, however, have not disappeared because Satan has done extensive work in the minds of millions. Religious deception is still his game of great importance and it is big business throughout our world.

Think of the wars which have roots reaching to the heart of religion. Millions have died because of its influence and battlefields have been soaked with human blood in the name of religion. It's because some thought their religion was better than that of others. The world, today, faces a religious menace. Good people are enwebbed in the throes of something they really don't understand. They only know what they have been taught. Blowing up buildings, killing human beings and destroying the fruits of human labor all in the name of religion is preposterous. Satan is the instigator and the propagator of this cause and effect campaign.

Satan operates in multiple facets of human life and government. Religion and governments are not his only operative channels. He uses human emotion much of the time. Fear seems to be another favorite. **Jesus told us to "fear not."** Worry is a companion to fear and both are overworked by our common adversary.

If one engages in a serious study of Satan, it is easy to find him an Adversary of both God and mankind. He is a creator of doubt and worry and certainly, a divider of people. This is especially true in many families and some churches. He is a definite personality with lofty aspirations. He would like to be God, but never can be. He has succeeded, temporarily, not only in invading the human family but operates extensively in many governments and social systems of the world. Human minds have been grossly affected, too.

Wherever and whenever division and frustration rules the hearts of human beings, somewhere Satan is lurking in the equation. The right choice is always on the side of good because that is where the Lord is. Remember both good and evil are before us and good comes from the Lord and evil comes from Satan. It is just that simple.

Satan should not be looked upon as an "it", but as a real personality. The scriptures describe him as a fallen angel and one with persuasive powers. One third of the stars (Angels) have been deceived by him and will receive their eternal punishment along with him. Hell is a place of fire and brimstone where Satan will ultimately be sent along with all wicked people and fallen angels.

Jesus described Satan's mission as being a killer, a thief, and a destroyer. (John 10:10) Wherever one finds murder, whether in the streets or in an abortion clinic, Satan's influence is there. He was a murderer from the beginning. (John 8:44) Theft is a worldwide problem and the expense of its influence is catastrophic. Destruction is the third purpose of Satan. Destroying people and their property is devastating and the economic and emotional costs heavy. The source of these problems and many more is Satan.

Satan cannot be trusted. His influence reaches throughout the world, but he must be remembered as a defeated foe. Jesus broke his eternal hold on the human race at Calvary and the word “**whosoever**” now has special meaning.

The battleground for control continues to rage in the minds and hearts of humans and it is especially noticeable with the invasion of drugs and alcohol. The healing begins whenever our hearts are turned toward Calvary and what was done there for all. **Satan is the eternal loser, so don't become influenced by his deception.**

Any person on planet earth may call upon the name of the Lord for salvation, leadership and other helps and Satan is powerless to intervene. See Satan for who and what he is, but remember God has all power in heaven and earth. (Matthew 28:18) We must ultimately answer to God and not to Satan.

The souls of human beings have been the contention between Satan and God since “the fall” in the Garden of Eden. Never let Satan lay claim to your soul because you are important and your soul is eternal. Serve God today and live for now and eternity. Throughout the eternal ages to come, you will be glad you did.

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