



Who is Satan? Know your adversary.

At the risk of spending a great deal of time and print space on a “secondary person,” it is important to know a bit about one’s adversary in order to place him in his proper place in our lives. So here are a few things known about him from the Scriptures:

1. In Hebrew, his name was originally **Hallel Ben Schachar** or Son of Dawn/ Son of the Morning. In Latin, it is Lucifer which is “morning star” (Isaiah 14:12-13). Later he became known by his function “Satan” which means “accuser.” It

can also mean enemy or adversary. He functions in that capacity today – “the accuser of the brethren.”

2. He was **incredibly beautiful** – probably still is (not the grotesque creature featured in film and pictures) and **highly intelligent. Humans are no match for his intelligence or power, remember that when you begin thinking about “rebuking” him** (more on this in another post). The Scriptures say of him, “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.” Further, Scriptures reveal he was “full of wisdom,” “perfect in beauty,” “filling up the sum of perfection.” He is called the “anointed cherub that covereth.” **He had great power and authority in heaven.** Cherubs are the highest order of angels and he is/was the Arch Cherub – the highest one in that group. It is estimated that he convinced approximately 1/3rd of the angelic host to rebel against God and follow him.

3. We must remember that **he is a created being.** Since he is created, he is **not self-existent. He can never be free from his dependence upon the Creator.** He may vainly propose to become independent, and even be permitted for a time to act under that delusion but that only delays the inevitable judgement that awaits him. In fact, that judgement has already been pronounced. For now, however, the execution of that judgement has been delayed.

4. As with all created beings, **he was a free moral agent;** capable of choosing evil, but not obligated to do so. He was removed from his high priestly place because of the sin (rebellion) of pride which continues today. He believed (and still does) that if given enough time he will evolve into the same being as the Most High God. Many false religions today have been deceived into believing this as well (Mormons and Buddhist are two examples).

5. As with human beings, God had surrounded him with sufficient motives to choose to do good and remain loyal, but his pride and arrogance got the best of him.

6. **Concerning his power, we often make one of two mistakes:**

- a) Thinking he doesn’t really have any power over us (both believers and non-believers often think this).
- b) Thinking he has more power than he does.
- c)

The power he has over non-believers is significant – he is, after all, their master (they live in his kingdom on earth right now, in darkness). His demons can indwell non-believers.

The power he has over believers is limited to deception. Through brainwashing and deception, he often succeeds in convincing believers that he is almost, but not quite, as powerful as God, when actually he has no power over the true Church at all (he cannot force believers to do anything). We must realize that **we must voluntarily comply with his wishes.** This should provide great comfort to us. Also, he does not

have the power to read our thoughts, but through observation, he can often tell how we might react to certain stimuli, and he plays upon that.

We will discuss Satan's present influence over this world more in another post.

7. Where does Satan live today? He is **not in hell** as many think. His present abode is on the earth and in the air. Remember he is a spirit who can present himself as a human, or anything else if he chooses to do so. He (and his demons) can be **shapeshifters**. He is often referred to as **the Prince of the Air**.

8. His (vain) attempts to make himself equal to God continue today. His primary methodology is not one of direct warfare but of a secret attack to steal the hearts of non-believers and gain a government for himself (just like he did with the angelic host). The first of these attacks met with triumph against the first Adam, when he wrestled the scepter of authority of the earth from man by securing Adam's loyal obedience to his own suggestion and counsel. Although Satan triumphed over the first Adam and thereby becoming the god and prince of this world, he was perfectly and finally triumphed over and judged by the second Adam (Jesus) at the cross (more on this topic later).

Out of jealousy, he hates true believers and enjoys torturing and using them for his purposes. **He wants all believers dead!** He can use us, but he can't convert us back to him (away from God) for we are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

9. He and his demons (evil spirits) are self-conscious beings who can hear, see, think and feel.

10. He is **not omnipresent** (an attribute reserved for God alone). He is not everywhere at the same time – but he has a great army of demons which he sends to plague, oppress, and afflict all humanity, especially those who seek to escape his snares. **Neither is he omnipotent** (all powerful), **nor omniscient** (all knowing). Remember he (and his demons) are created beings, a very high order of created beings, but created beings none the less. The attributes of omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience are reserved for the Godhead.

Maranatha! My Friends!