

CHAPTER 52



Does Satan Transform Into Light?

Who Is The Angel Of Light?

2Corinthians 11:13-15

13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

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.

In this passage, Paul uses the Greek word *satanas*. He does not use it as a name for a cosmic entity. *Satanas* corresponds to the Hebrew word for adversary. The reference is to Jewish adversaries who are men and this is made clear by noting the statement in verse 13 that boldly accuses certain men of being false and deceitful. These adversaries make themselves out to be messengers of truth by making people think they are serving Messiah and teaching His truth. It is likely here that Paul would be referring to a specific adversarial

individual. Remember, *satanas* simply speaks of an adversarial person most times. And an *angel* is simply a human messenger in many cases. Perhaps that person is a Chief Priest. Many of the religious leaders were called angels. This angel/messenger would be seen as being the head of others who follow his line of doctrine. His line of doctrine opposed the truth the Apostles were disseminating therefore that messenger/angel was a satan. The “satan” has “ministers” who are men that also come off as if they are apostles of Messiah. Paul is speaking about false apostles who deceive and then, if we are honest with the context and the cultural understanding the audience would have had, Paul said, *“for no wonder there are deceiving false apostles, because even the religious adversary gives off the appearance of teaching truth and so do the followers of that false teacher.”*

According to a further statement by Paul, he did not think these “ministers” were a cosmic archenemy, rather he knew they were manipulative, deceptive men. Notice below in the sentences following the statement about a messenger of light, Paul tells the Corinthians the messenger who is a deceitful worker is a man.

For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. 2Corinthians 11:20

Paul calls the people who transform themselves into ministers of righteousness frauds. This type of “satan” and “minister of righteousness” is seen far-and-wide today. How many charlatan evangelists have come and gone? The ministers of light that fill the airwaves today are false apostles and satans. They pretend to be pure and righteous, preaching parts of the true message of the Scripture but

This Is It... Satan Is Finished

really just building a following because of their lust for power and need to be “someone.” According to Paul, these men are either “satan” or the deceptive ministers of lies who have made themselves out to be the servants of the Most High. Paul had no small understanding of these men because he knew that if anyone taught something that was man-made doctrine and opposed the truth of Scripture, there was no light in them.

Isaiah 8:20

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Those who are transformed into *messengers of light* and *ministers of righteousness* are the deceptive men who teach the unsuspecting laity their version of the truth ... ignoring God’s version of the truth.

One final point on this foolishness that suggest there is a Satan who can turn himself into an angel of light needs to be made here. If this Satan is able to transform himself into another form, then Satan is able to do a supernatural act like God. God said there is none like Him, yet if Satan can do the things that God can do, then there is one like God. That then means believers in a literal Satan are really believers in two Gods. We are up against the hard facts that then reveal there are two Gods and the God of the Scriptures is a liar or we have built a mythical Satan into a real being in our belief system. I suggest the latter on this one. It seems many of have unwittingly found themselves believing in a second lesser god. If the Satan and the ministers of righteousness in this statement of Paul’s are only men who are deceptive and false apostles, then we find Paul not to be a believer in two Gods. And you and I can eliminate a two God belief, as was the intent of the Scriptures in the first place.

CHAPTER 53



Please God, Remove My Satan!

Why Won't God Take Paul's Satan Away?

2Corinthians 12:7-9

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

So, let me get this straight. According to Christian theology about the devil, Paul is telling us that he is given an infirmity of some sort. This thorn in the flesh came from Satan. And now, God won't rescue Paul from it. Granted we do not know what this infirmity is, but to be sure, verse nine explains that the thorn in Paul's flesh is an infirmity. And Paul plans to

accept what was given him and work through it so that he can rely on Messiah's grace to get through. This attitude and effort is adopted in order for Yeshua to be glorified.

How Is An Infirmary A Satanic Messenger?

Verse 9 has identified the “messenger of Satan” as an infirmity. Why does Paul call this infirmity a messenger of “satan?” Did he receive the infirmity from a cosmic Satan? What sense is there in thinking that Jesus’ biggest advocate in the area was given an affliction from Satan? Or is it more likely Paul is using the Greek word that corresponds to the Hebrew word for something that is an adversary. Perhaps speaking of his infirmity as that which becomes oppositional to his person. Is it probable that Paul is not stating a personal Satan, the so-called “fallen angel,” is the force responsible for the difficulties he is having from a demonically imparted infirmity? I would say Paul was using the term for adversary to describe a concept instead of a word that was considered a name for a superhuman celestial adversary. Paul was completely human and was able to be honest with himself about his weaknesses. Paul was skilled at “self-assessment.” With effective self-assessment skills, he was able to be honest with himself and then with others about his own shortcomings, misgivings, and sinful tendencies. Recall for a moment when Paul talked about his problem with doing things from a carnal fleshly part of his humanity. He told the hearer that his spirit, the good part that wants to obey Yahweh, desired to do that which pleases the Father and that he wanted to yield his member to righteousness. In that dissertation to the Romans in chapter 7, Paul was very candid about his own propensity to choose sin instead of choosing righteousness at times. Here again we are seeing Paul’s honesty and candor. He shares the fact that he might become prideful and arrogant because of the

amazing things Yeshua has shown him and done through him. Our English versions indicate that this thorn in the flesh is a messenger that came from “satan.” However, the use of this term simply indicates the infirmity that is causing Paul adversity, is in fact a message in itself. Paul had a need to be reminded that Yeshua’s grace must be relied on. Coming from a hoop jumping form of religious Judaism, Paul learned that he was not to rely on his own abilities or strength to get God’s message out and work done. If we look again at the logic of the common idea that says, “a real cosmic satan afflicted Paul,” then we can see several holes in a confused satanology. When viewed through a corrected lens, assessing the cultural, linguistic, historical, and social contexts, placed in their rightful position, then we are able to clearly learn that Paul did not teach the existence of a supernatural cosmic Satan to the Corinthians or to anyone else.