

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine #24: Satan: His Work and Destiny

Note: Most information based on pages 161-164 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

False Concepts About Satan

1. Two errors regarding Satan are current, and since he alone is benefited by them it is reasonable to conclude that he is the author of them. The two errors are:
 - a. Many believe that Satan does not really exist and that the supposed person of Satan is no more than an evil principle, or influence, which is in man and in the world.
 - 1) This conception is proved to be wrong by the fact that there is the same abundant evidence that Satan is a person as there is that Christ is a person.
 - 2) Scripture, which alone is authoritative on these matters, treats one to be a person as much as the other, and if the personality of Christ is accepted on the testimony of the Bible, the personality of Satan must also be accepted on the same testimony.
 - b. Likewise, others believe the error that Satan is the direct cause of sin in every person. This impression is not true:
 - 1) Because Satan is not aiming to promote sin in the world. He did not purpose to be a fiend, but rather to be “like the most High.”

Isaiah 14:14 *“I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”*

He is not aiming to destroy so much as he is to construct and to realize his own ambition for authority over this world-system with its culture, morality, and religion.

2Corinthians 11:13-15 *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as AN ANGEL OF LIGHT. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

- 2) Human sin comes directly from the fallen human heart, not the work of Satan.

Genesis 6:5 *“The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”*

Mark 7:18-23 “‘Are you so dull?’ he asked. ‘Don’t you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him ‘unclean’? For it doesn’t go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body.’ (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods ‘clean.’) He went on: ‘What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’ For from within, OUT OF MEN’S HEARTS, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ALL THESE EVILS COME FROM INSIDE and make a man ‘unclean.’”

James 1:13-16 “When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, BY HIS OWN EVIL DESIRE, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers.”

The Work of Satan

1. Isaiah 14:12-17 is only one of the many passages bearing on the work of Satan.

Isaiah 14:12-17 “How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: ‘Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?’”

2. This passage reveals Satan’s original and supreme purpose.
 - a. He would ascend into heaven, exalt his throne above the stars of God, and be like the most High.
 - b. To this end he will use his unmeasured wisdom and power; he will weaken the nations, make the earth to tremble, make the world as a wilderness, destroy the cities thereof, and refuse to release his prisoners.
3. Though every phrase of this passage is a startling disclosure, two in particular may be noted:
 - a. The expression “I will be like the most High” (v. 14) indicates the supreme motive that guides all his activities after the fall.
 - 1) It was this purpose which in all seriousness he recommended to Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:5), and they, by adopting Satan’s ideal, became self-centered, self-sufficient, and independent of God.

Genesis 3:5 “*God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, knowing good and evil.”*

- 2) This attitude on the part of Adam and Eve became their very nature and has been transmitted to all their posterity to the extent that in their posterity are called the “children of wrath”

Ephesians 2:3 “*All of us also lived among them at one time, GRATIFYING THE CRAVINGS OF OUR SINFUL NATURES and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, WE WERE BY NATURE OBJECTS OF WRATH.”*

Ephesians 5:6 “*Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.”*

Romans 1:18 “*THE WRATH OF GOD is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...”*

- 3) To escape from the wrath that sinful man deserves, a person must be born again; but, even when saved, they will have a struggle to be yielded wholly to the will of God.

John 3:3 “*In reply Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God UNLESS HE IS BORN AGAIN.’”*

Romans 6:12-14 “*Therefore DO NOT LET SIN REIGN IN YOUR MORTAL BODY so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather OFFER YOURSELVES TO GOD, as those who have been brought FROM DEATH TO LIFE; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”*

- 4) Again, Satan’s desire to be “like the most High” is seen in his passion to be worshiped by Christ:

Luke 4:5-7 “*The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. SO IF YOU WORSHIP ME, IT WILL ALL BE YOURS.’”*

- 5) When the Man of Sin enters the holy place and is worshiped as God for a brief moment, Satan’s supreme desire will be realized under the permissive will of God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 “*Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS IS REVEALED, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, PROCLAIMING HIMSELF TO BE GOD.”*

Daniel 9:27 “*He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*

Matthew 24:15 “So when you see *STANDING IN THE HOLY PLACE* ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand...”

Revelation 13:4-8 “*MEN WORSHIPPED THE DRAGON* because he had given authority to the beast, and *THEY ALSO WORSHIPPED THE BEAST* and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?’ The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth *TO BLASPHEME GOD*, and to slander His name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ALL INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH WILL WORSHIP THE BEAST—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”

- b. The expression that He “opened not the house of his prisoners” (Isa. 14:17) seems to refer to Satan’s present power over “unsaved people” as well as his incapacity to help them in their eternal judgment.
 - 1) The entire prophecy from which this phrase is taken concerns the work of Satan as it will have been completed in the day of his final judgment.
 - 2) Doubtless there is a larger fulfillment yet future; however, we know that Satan is now doing all in his power to keep the unsaved from being delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son.

Colossians 1:13 “For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves...”

4. Satan is the one who energizes the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:2 “in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, THE SPIRIT WHO IS NOW AT WORK IN THOSE WHO ARE DISOBEDIENT.”

5. Satan is the one who blinds the minds of the unsaved lest the light of the Gospel reach them:

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age HAS BLINDED THE MINDS OF UNBELIEVERS, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

6. Satan holds the unconscious world in his arms:

1 John 5:19 “We know that we are children of God, and that THE WHOLE WORLD IS UNDER THE CARE OF THE EVIL ONE.”

7. It is also revealed that Satan in his warfare will “counterfeit” the things of God, which undertaking will likewise be in accord with his purpose to be “like the most High.”

2Thessalonians 2:9 “*The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of COUNTERFEIT MIRACLES, SIGNS, AND WONDERS...*”

8. Satan also promotes extensive false religious systems.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 “*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and THINGS TAUGHT BY DEMONS. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND KNOW THE TRUTH.*”

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 “*For such men are FALSE APOSTLES, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*”

- a. In this connection it should be observed that Satan can promote forms of religion which are based on selected Bible texts, which elevate Christ as the leader, and which incorporate every phase of the Christian faith except one—the doctrine of salvation by grace alone on the ground of the shed blood of Christ.

2Timothy 3:1-5 “*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS BUT DENYING ITS POWER. Have nothing to do with them.*”

Romans 1:16 “*I am not ashamed of THE GOSPEL, BECAUSE IT IS THE POWER OF GOD for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*”

- b. Such satanic delusions are now in the world and multitudes are being deceived by them.
- c. Such false systems are always to be tested by the attitude they take toward the saving grace of God through the efficacious blood of Christ.

Revelation 12:11 “*They overcame him BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*”

9. Satan’s enmity is evidently against God alone.
 - a. He is in no way at enmity with the unsaved, who are acknowledged even by Jesus as being Satan’s “children” (John 8:44).

- b. When he aims his “fiery darts” at the children of God (Ephesians 6:16), he attacks them only because of the fact that they are indwelt by the divine nature, and through them he is enabled to secure a thrust at God.
10. Likewise, the attack against the children of God is not in the sphere of “flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12), but in the sphere of their heavenly association with Christ.
- a. That is, the believer may not be drawn away into immorality, but he may utterly fail in prayer, in testimony, and in spiritual victory.
 - b. Such failure, it should be seen, is as much defeat and dishonor in the sight of God as those sins which are freely condemned by the world.

The Destiny of Satan

As the Word of God is explicit regarding the origin of Satan, so it is explicit regarding his career and destiny. Five progressive judgments of Satan are to be distinguished.

1. Satan’s moral fall, with its necessary separation from God, is clearly indicated, although the time in the dateless past is not disclosed .

Ezekiel 28:15 *“YOU WERE BLAMELESS in your ways from the day you were created TILL WICKEDNESS WAS FOUND IN YOU.”*

1 Timothy 3:6 *“He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and FALL UNDER THE SAME JUDGMENT AS THE DEVIL.”*

NOTE: It is evident, however, that Satan has not currently lost his heavenly position, the larger portion of his power, or his access to God. These privileges will be taken from Satan by Christ at a later time after he has been used by God to accomplish His divine will, even through Satan’s rebellion.

2. A perfect judgment of Satan has been secured through the Cross, but the execution of that sentence is yet future.

John 12:31 *“Now is the time for judgment on this world; NOW THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD WILL BE DRIVEN OUT.”*

John 16:11 *“and in regard to judgment, BECAUSE THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD NOW STANDS CONDEMNED.”*

Colossians 2:14-15 “*having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having DISARMED THE POWERS AND AUTHORITIES, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”*

NOTE: Satan’s ultimate sentence with its execution was predicted in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:15 “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; HE WILL CRUSH YOUR HEAD, and you will strike his heel.”*

3. Ultimately, the Scriptures confirm that Satan will be cast out of heaven.

- a. In the midst of the coming Tribulation and as a result of a war in heaven, Satan will be cast out of heaven and be limited to the earth.

Revelation 12:7-9 “*And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and THEY LOST THERE PLACE IN HEAVEN. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. HE WAS HURLED TO THE EARTH, and his angels with him.”*

Isaiah 14:12 “*How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! YOU HAVE BEEN CAST DOWN TO THE EARTH, you who once laid low the nations!”*

Luke 10:18 “*He replied, ‘I saw Satan FALL LIKE LIGHTENING FROM HEAVEN.’”*

- b. Satan will then act in great wrath, knowing that he has but a short time to continue:

Revelation 12:10-12 “*Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, HAS BEEN HURLED DOWN. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! BUT WOE TO THE EARTH AND THE SEA, because the devil has gone down to you! HE IS FILLED WITH FURY, BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT HIS TIME IS SHORT.”*

4. Satan will for a time-period be confined to the abyss.

- a. For the thousand-year reign of Christ upon the earth, Satan will be sealed in the abyss:

Revelation 20:1-3a “*And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having THE KEY TO THE ABYSS and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and BOUND HIM FOR A THOUSAND YEARS. He threw him INTO THE ABYSS, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended...”*

- b. At the end of Christ's millennial reign on the earth, Satan will be loosed for a "little season" in order to lead a final rebellion of man against his creator:

Revelation 20:3b "...After that, HE MUST BE SET FREE for a short time."

Revelation 20:7 "*When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison.*"

NOTE: The purpose of putting Satan in the abyss is to make it impossible for him to be active and to continue deceiving the nations for the one thousand years that Christ, Himself, will be leading the government that will rule over all the people on earth.

5. The Scriptures reveal that Satan's final doom will come at the close of the millennium.

- a. At the end of Christ's one thousand year reign on this earth, Satan will be temporary let out of the Abyss and he will promote an open rebellion against God for a short period of time:

Revelation 20:7-9a "*When the thousand years are over, SATAN WILL BE RELEASED FROM HIS PRISION and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and SURROUNDED THE CAMP OF GOD'S PEOPLE, the city He loves.*"

- b. Satan's rebellion will be quickly crushed by God and then he will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever

Revelation 20:9b-10 "*But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, WAS THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. THEY WILL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER.*"

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Doctrine # 24 - “Satan: His Work and Destiny”

1. Read Pages 1-8 from the Doctrine#24 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “Satan” as you read:

a. False Concepts About Satan

- 1) What are the two major errors in most people’s concepts regarding Satan? (page 1)

- 2) True or False. Satan’s premier goal in rebelling against God was to promote sin in the world.
(page 1, middle; Isaiah 14:14)

- 3) What is the ultimate cause of human sin? (page 1, bottom; Genesis 6:5; Mark 7:18-23; James 1:13-16)

- 4) What is the ultimate “source”, according to Jesus Christ, for evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, etc., etc., and all other like evils? (Mark 7:18-23)

- 5) According to James 1:13-16, each person is “tempted” and then “dragged away” and “enticed” by what?

b. The Work of Satan

- 1) What is the primary passage in the book of Isaiah which bear on the work of Satan? (page 2, middle)

- 2) According to Isaiah 14:12-17, what was Satan's original and supreme purpose? (page 2, middle)

- 3) What did Satan "say" to Adam and Eve when tempting them to eat of the forbidden fruit which was an attempt to get them to become self-centered, self-sufficient, and independent of God? (Genesis 3:5)

- 4) When Adam and Eve adopted Satan's "self-sufficient", "independent", and "self-centered" nature, it resulted in their posterity being called "what" by the Scriptures?
(page 3, top; see also Ephesians 2:3; Ephesians 5:6; Romans 1:18)

- 5) Because of the sin nature in every man, what is something a person will struggle with even after they have been "born again" (i.e. "saved")? (page 3, middle; Romans 6:12-14)

- 6) What did Satan try to get Jesus Christ to do by promising to give Him the authority over the world?
(page 3, middle; Luke 4:5-7)

- 7) What occurs for a brief moment on the earth which reveals Satan's supreme desire?
(page 3, bottom; see also 2Thessalonians 2:3-4; Daniel 9:27; Revelation 13:4-8)

- 8) What is Satan now doing with all of his power in reference to "unsaved" people? (page 4, middle)

- 9) Who does Satan "energize" (i.e. "work in" and "through") according to the Scriptures?
(page 4, middle; see also Ephesians 2:2)

- 10) According to Paul, what does “the god of this age” (i.e. “Satan”) do to the minds of unbelievers?
(page 4, bottom; 2Corinthians 4:3-4)
- 11) According to 1John 5:19, who is the “whole world” under the control of?
- 12) According to 2Thessalonians 2:9, what are some “counterfeit” things that Satan will do (even during religious services) to deceive people from listening to and/or trusting the truth of the gospel?
- 13) True or False. Satan and demons can work through pastors, priests, and other “ordained” ministers to use false religious systems and teachings that can even “deceive” people of faith if they are not careful. (page 5, top; 1Timothy 4:1-3; 2Corinthians 11:13-15)
- 14) Satan can promote forms of religion that are based on selected Biblical texts, which even elevate Christ as leader, and which incorporate every phase of the Christian faith but one. What is the one “doctrine” that false religions keep “leaving out”, “twisting”, or “vague”? (page 5, middle)
- 15) True or False. Because Satan disguises himself as an “angel of light”, it is possible for him to be in complete control of a church and its leaders, leading them to do many good “works” for the poor, sick, and helpless, but ultimately keeping most (if not all) from entering the kingdom of heaven, because the gospel of Jesus Christ is “denied” and/or “ignored”.
(2Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 1:16)
- 16) According to Revelation 12:11, what is the only way to “overcome” the false deceptions of the evil one?
- 17) True or False. Satan’s ultimate enemy is all of mankind and he is especially at war with the “unsaved”.
(page 5, bottom; see also John 8:44)

18) Satan's attacks against "believers" are not ultimately just to get us to be drawn away into immorality, but to get us to utterly "fail" in what? (page 6, top)

c. The Destiny of Satan

- 1) True or False. Satan was created "blameless" by the Lord, but was kicked out of heaven immediately once the "wickedness" of pride was found in him. (page 6, middle; Revelation 12:7-9)

- 2) True or False. A perfect judgment of Satan has been secured by Jesus Christ through the Cross, but the execution of that sentence is yet future.
(page 6, bottom; John 12:31; John 16:11; Colossians 2:14-15)

- 3) When will Satan ultimately be cast out of heaven forever and limited only to the earth?
(page 7, top; Revelation 12:7-9)

- 4) Why does the bible say that Satan will be "filled with fury (i.e. wrath)" when he is finally thrown down to the earth from heaven? (page 7, middle; Revelation 12:10-12)

- 5) Where will Satan be while Jesus Christ is ruling for one thousand years over the entire earth?
(page 7, bottom; Revelation 20:1-3a)

- 6) True or False. At the end of Christ's millennial reign on this earth, Satan will be released from the Abyss for a short time to lead a final rebellion of "sinful" mankind against Jesus in Jerusalem. The rebellion will be quickly defeated and Satan will then be thrown into the "lake of fire".
(Revelation 20:7-10)