

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Lesson 2 | That Old Serpent, the Devil

One of the greatest dangers in war is underestimating your opponent, and so as Christians we must take the devil seriously. The Bible doesn't tell us everything about this enemy, but it does tell us he is real, he wants to destroy us, and it gives us his battle plans so we can be ready.

The _____ of Satan

We do not have a thorough explanation of what happened when Satan fell (Luke 10:17-18). Two OT passages seem to give us some indication about what happened, and Genesis gives us Satan's first attack.

Satan's _____ from Heaven (Isa 14:12-14; Ezek 28:11-19)

Satan was originally created good. Twice Ezekiel calls Satan a "covering Cherub" or a "guardian Cherub" (28:14, 16). Cherubim (the plural of Cherub) often show up in Scripture as guardians for God (Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 10). Satan is also described as an extraordinarily beautiful being. He is described as covered in gems (Eze 28:13), as a shining one, or Lucifer (Isa 14:12). Yet through pride Satan said in his heart, "I will be like the Most High."

Satan's _____ in the _____ (Gen 3:1-7)

Our first introduction to Satan is up in the garden of Eden. He shows up as a friend, but immediately questions God's goodness. He then outright denies what God's warning, and wants Adam and Eve to think that God is holding back from them. Satan follows the same pattern today – try to convince people that God is being unkind and that He won't really judge. Essentially, Satan makes the same promise today that he has been since the beginning: you can be your own god.

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The _____ of Satan

While Job shows that God limits what Satan can do, we must realize that Satan plays dirty. He does anything and everything to wreck the faith of Christians and keep unbelievers from trusting Christ.

Satan _____ (John 8:44; 2 Cor 11:3, Rev 12:9)

“The devil made me do it!” many people like to say. But the truth is that Satan doesn’t make you do anything. You choose to do it. So how does Satan get people to sin? By lying. Jesus calls Satan a liar from the beginning and the father of lies (John 8:44). Revelation 12:9 says that Satan deceives the entire world.

Satan _____ (John 8:44; Job 1-2)

God is a God of life, and Satan is the lord of death. Jesus says that Satan was a murderer from the beginning, because from the very beginning his lies have led to death and destruction.

Satan _____ (2 Cor 12:7, 1 Thess 2:17-18)

If Satan can’t destroy a believer outright and his lies don’t work, then he will do everything he can to frustrate someone following God. Paul had a “thorn in the flesh,” which he calls a “messenger of Satan to buffet [beat] me.” We also know that when Paul tried to get back to see the Thessalonians after being ripped away from them far sooner than he had intended, Satan prevented him. We may not know the exact details in either case, but we know that somehow Satan was making ministry hard and frustrating.

Satan _____ (Zech 3:1-5; Rev 12:10)

Finally, Satan accuses God’s people. The name “Satan” means adversary, and the name “Devil” means slanderer. Sometimes Satan’s accusations are false, as with Job. Sometimes his accusations are fair, as with Joshua the high priest in Zechariah 3:1-5. But through the forgiveness of Christ, the accusations of Satan are silenced.

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