

THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN

I. The Existence of Satan – There is scarcely a culture, tribe, or society to be found in this world that does not have some concept or fear of an invisible evil power. This has been attested by Christian missionaries and secular anthropologists alike. Witch doctors, shrunken heads, voodoo dolls, and totem poles all give dramatic evidence of this universal fear. One may well ask where this fear came from and of whom are they afraid. The study of the doctrine of Satan may not thrill the soul of man, but it will answer these questions.

A. His existence is doubted by the world.

1. As shown by the typical “Walt Disney cartoon concept” – Most of the world today pictures the devil as a medieval and mythical two-horned, fork-tailed impish creature, dressed in red flannel underwear, busily pitching coal into the furnace of hell. Satan is ignored or downplayed by the world.
2. As shown by the denial from liberal pulpits – Satan is ignored or downplayed in liberal churches today. These Christ-denying liberals have, of course, long since thrown out such concepts as the “old devil” and the “new birth.” They now leave out the *d* in devil and add an *o* to God. It’s a shame, but most words like *hell*, *damned*, and *devil* are found in the vocabularies of factory workers, politicians, school children, college students, and even professional people. They are not heard from behind pulpits of liberal churches – where they should be heard. These liberal churches are the places from which people need to hear these words. In the fifties, a national secular magazine took a poll of some 5,000 American clergymen and discovered that a full 73 percent ridiculed the concept of a personal devil of any sort.
3. As shown by the silence from conservative pulpits – Satan is even ignored or downplayed among many Bible-believers. Many Bible-believing pastors and lay people are, it would seem, extremely reluctant to “give the devil his due.” Some time ago, this author wrote an article entitled, “If I Were the Devil.” In this article the following points were stressed:

The first thing I would do would be to deny my own existence. The Bible informs us that God desires, perhaps above all else, to be fully believed in. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6). But this is not so with Satan! This disciple of doubt seems to thrive best when he is either underestimated, ignored or denied.

Suppose there is a Bible-believing church which is going through a spiritual crisis. For some months no soul has walked its aisles. The attendance and offerings are down and the members are becoming restless. All Bible pastors have had these experiences. Finally, in desperation, a special committee is appointed by the congregation to discover the source of this coldness and lifelessness. After considerable prayer and probing, the committee submits its report. What are its findings? I believe it may be safely assumed that the average committee would lay the blame on one or more of the following: (1) the pastor; (2) certain officials; (3) a cold congregation; or (4) a difficult neighborhood.

But what fact-finding group would return the following indictment? “We believe the main source of our heartaches for the past few months is satanic! We believe the reason no souls have been saved recently is due to an all-out attack on our church by the devil! We close this report with a strong recommendation that the congregation call a special meeting, rebuke Satan, plead the blood of Christ and claim the victory!”

If I were the devil I would deny my existence in the world and down-play it in the local church, thus freeing me to go about my business unheeded, unhindered, and unchecked. (*The Baptist Bulletin*, Dec. 1971, p. 13)

The following poem by an unknown author vividly describes this devil-denying attitude:

The Devil

*Men don't believe in a devil now, as their fathers used to do.
 They've opened the door to the broadest creed to let his majesty thru.
 There isn't a print of his cloven feet or a fiery dart from his bow
 To be found on earth or anywhere, for the world has voted it so.
 But who is mixing the fatal draught that kills both heart and brain,
 And loads the earth each passing year with ten hundred thousand slain?
 Who blights the bloom of the land today with the fiery breath of hell?
 If the devil isn't or never was - won't somebody please rise and tell?
 Who dogs the steps of the toiling saint and digs the pits for his feet?
 Who sows the tares in the field of time when God is sowing pure wheat,
 But the devil is voted just not to be - and of course the thing is true –
 But who is doing the kind of work the devil is supposed to do?
 Won't somebody step to the front right now – and immediately begin to show –
 How the frauds and the crimes of the day spring up – for surely we want to know!
 The devil was fairly voted out – and of course the devil's gone –
 But simply folk would like to know, who carries his business on?*

This overall scriptural ignorance concerning the person of Satan has, in all probability, greatly contributed to one of the most frightening developments in the final decades of the twentieth century, namely, the worship of Satan.

Josh McDowell observes:

In a chapter on Satanism today, William Petersen in *Those Curious New Cults* comments on the fact that since the mid-1960s Satanism is making a come-back. He points to the catalyst for the strong upswing as being the box office smash of *Rosemary's Baby*. Of the film he states: “Anton Szandor La Vey, self-styled high priest of San Francisco’s First Church of Satan and author of *The Satanic Bible*, played the role of the devil.

Later, he called the film the ‘best paid commercial for Satanism since the Inquisition.’ No doubt it was” (p. 75).

Many people are becoming involved in Satanism from all walks of life. They vary in age, occupation and educational background. (*Handbook of Today's Religions*, p. 237)

The Satanic Bible has reportedly sold over 250,000 copies and is now in its third printing. Concerning the doctrine of Satanism, La Vey writes: “It is a blatantly selfish, brutal religion. It is based on the belief that man is inherently a selfish, violent creature, that life is a Darwinian struggle for survival of the fittest, that the earth will be ruled by those who fight to win” (Ibid., p. 238).

B. His existence is declared by the Bible.

1. The devil is mentioned in seven Old Testament books – Genesis, 1 Chronicles, Job (12 times), Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah.
2. He is to be found in 19 New Testament books and is referred to by every New Testament writer.
3. He is referred to by our Lord Jesus Christ some 15 times – Note but a few of these.
 - a. In Matthew 4, Jesus was not arguing with some type of principle in the desert, but with a vile person by the name of Satan – “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matt. 4:10).
 - b. In Matthew 16, Jesus realized that Satan was prompting or influencing Simon Peter to rebuke him – “But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men” (Matt. 16:23).
 - c. In Luke 22, Jesus speaks again to Simon Peter – “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat” (Luke 22:31).
 - d. In Luke 10, Jesus speaks of seeing Satan fall – “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven” (Luke 10:18).
 - e. In Matthew 25, Jesus speaks of the final abode of Satan and his followers (the unsaved) – “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).

- f. In John 8, Jesus accuses a group of ungodly Pharisees of being from their father, the devil – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).
- g. In John 6, Jesus reveals that one of his disciples, one of the Twelve, was at that point (early in his ministry) being influenced by Satan – Later on, that person (Judas) would become possessed by Satan. “Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?” (John 6:70). Thus, we cannot believe in the Bible and deny the existence of Satan.

II. The Origin of Satan – Often a twofold question is asked concerning Satan: “Why did God create the devil, and why doesn't God destroy him?” A simple answer to these questions would be: “He didn't, and he will!”

There are two important passages in the Word of God concerning the origin and fall of the devil.

- A. His origin and fall as related by the prophet Ezekiel – In his book, Ezekiel predicts coming judgment upon the wicked city of Tyre in chapters 26, 27 and the first part of chapter 28. This has already been fulfilled, for the city was sacked by Nebuchadnezzar in 573 B.C. and later destroyed by Alexander in 332 B.C. But in verses 12-19 of Ezekiel 28, the prophet goes beyond the earthly scene of pronouncing judgment on the king (or prince) of Tyre at that time (whose name was Ithabaa II). Ezekiel describes for us the creation and judgment of a vile and vicious, nonhuman creature whose name we find out later to be Lucifer.

God often uses a backdoor approach – that is, he often addresses Satan through another source. For example, in Genesis 3 God pronounced doom upon the devil by addressing the serpent. Another example is in Matthew 16:23, when Jesus rebuked Satan by talking to Simon Peter. In Ezekiel 28 God used the king (or prince) of Tyre in order to really make a wider prophecy – actually, to get at the devil.

“Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee” (Ezek 28:12-17).

We now note in some detail the key phrases in this passage.

1. “Thou sealest up the sum” – This is literally, “You set the seal on perfection.”
2. “Full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty” – This was thus the most brilliant and beautiful creature ever to exist. Lucifer became the pattern of perfection and beauty.
3. “Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God” – The word *Eden* means “delight.” What garden did Ezekiel refer to here? There are at least three suggestions:
 - a. A reference to the earthly, Adamic garden, man's original home (see Gen. 2:8, 10, 15; 3:23-24; 4:16)
 - b. A reference to a heavenly, angelic garden – If it exists, this garden would thus serve as a pattern for the earthly one, as did the heavenly tabernacle (see Exod. 25:9, 40; Heb. 8:1-2, 5; 9:23; Rev. 15:5).
 - c. A reference to both gardens
4. “Every precious stone was thy covering” – Lucifer was decked with dazzling stones, somewhat resembling the display of costly gems in an expensive and exclusive jewelry store. This marks the second of three listings of these stones in the Bible. These are:
 - a. In the high priest's breastplate, relating to the grace of God (Exod. 39:10-13)
 - b. In the new Jerusalem, relating to the glory of God (Rev. 21:14, 19-21)
 - c. Surrounding the person of Lucifer, relating to the guardian of God (this is indicated in Ezek 28:14)
5. “The workmanship of thy timbrels and of thy flutes” – Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost writes:

Musical instruments were originally designed to be means of praising and worshiping God. It was not necessary for Lucifer to learn to play a musical instrument in order to praise God. If you please, he had a built-in pipe organ, or, he was an organ! That's what the prophet meant when he said, "The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes...." Lucifer, because of his beauty, did what a musical instrument would do in the hands of a skilled musician – bring forth a psalm of praise to the glory of God. Lucifer didn't have to look for someone to play the organ so that he could sing the doxology – he was a doxology. (*Your Adversary, the Devil*, p. 16)

6. "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth" – The word *cherub* is derived from the Hebrew root word *charab*, meaning "to cut," "to engrave," a meaning that carries with it the engraving on a coin, the idea of representation. F. C. Jennings writes: "The cherub, we gather from the word itself, was to be the representative of God... as the image cut on a coin represents fully the sovereign, or governor, that issues it. Compare Matt. 22:20-21" (*Satan, His Person, Work, Place, and Destiny*, p. 40).

Note the following concerning this cherub:

- a. He was anointed – In the Old Testament there were three anointed offices – that of prophet, priest, and king. Here is a suggestion that Lucifer may have originally been created to function (under Christ) as heaven's prophet, priest, and king. But he failed. This may be the reason God separated these offices. It also may be that after the fall of Lucifer, God determined never again to entrust this power to only one person, whether it be a human being or an angel. We note this separation of the offices of "priest" and "king" in two specific Old Testament passages.
 - (1) In 1 Samuel 13 King Saul usurped the priest's office by offering a sacrifice – He was reproved by Samuel and punished by God (13:9-14).
 - (2) King Uzziah was a good and wise king, but like Lucifer, he allowed his heart to become power-hungry – In 2 Chronicles 26 King Uzziah usurped the priest's office. He was reproved by Azariah and 80 other priests, and he was punished by God.

"But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the Lord, that were valiant men: and they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the Lord, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the Lord God. Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the Lord, from beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the Lord had smitten him. And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the Lord: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land" (2 Chron. 26:16-21).
- b. He was a guardian cherub – A cherub was a special kind of angelic being whose purpose was to protect God's holiness (see Gen. 3; Exod. 25; 1 Kings 6; Ezek 1; Rev. 4). Both archaeological and biblical evidences suggest they bore the likeness of a lion, a calf, a man, and an eagle.

Apparently Lucifer was created (among other purposes) to demonstrate the earthly work of Christ, as pictured by the four Gospel writers:

- (1) Matthew presents Christ as the lionlike king.
- (2) Mark presents Christ as the calflike servant.
- (3) Luke presents Christ as the perfect man.
- (4) John presents Christ as the eaglelike God.

The book of Revelation seems to indicate that in heaven also this power was to be distributed among these four special cherubim, one with the appearance of a lion, one with the appearance of a calf, one with the appearance of an eagle, and the other with the appearance of a man. (See Rev. 4:6-8.)

7. "I have set thee so" – Stated another way, "I have appointed you to serve in this lofty position." Thus, angels, like men, owe both their creation and commission to God and God alone. (See John 15:16; Heb. 5:4.)
 8. "Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire" – Note two phrases here.
 - a. "The holy mountain of God" – Both Isaiah and John speak of this mountain.
 - (1) Isaiah connects it to the enemy of God – "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north" (Isa. 14:13).
 - (2) John connects it to the Son of God and the glory of God – "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads" (Rev. 14:1). "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (Rev. 21:10).
 - b. "The stones of fire" – Compare what Ezekiel says here with what Moses said when he was allowed to see the glory of God: "Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself... And the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain" (Exod. 24:9-10, 16-17).
 "The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it" (Ezek. 1:13, NIV),
 9. "Till iniquity was found in thee" – What was the nature of this iniquity? In a nutshell, pride and self-will.
 - a. Pride – "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty" (Ezek. 28:17a).
 - b. Self-will – "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will" (Isa. 14:13.). Thus, the very *worst* sin was the very *first* sin. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (1 Tim. 3:6).
 10. "By the multitude of thy merchandise... by the iniquity of thy traffick" – The word *merchandise* (also, *traffick*) is from the Hebrew root word meaning "to go about, for either the purpose of trade or slanderous gossip." Here the latter is in view.
 11. "I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God" – The word *profane* is from the Hebrew *chalal*, meaning, "to pollute, prostitute, stain, defile."
- B. His origin and fall as related by the prophet Isaiah – "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit" (Isa. 14:12-15).
- The name Lucifer means "light bearer, day star, shining one." Note his five fatal "I wills."
1. I will ascend into heaven – Obviously Satan had the third heaven in mind here, the very abode of God. Paul speaks of this third heaven in 2 Corinthians 12:2: "Such a one caught up to the third heaven."
 2. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God – Probably "the stars of God" is a reference to angels. Satan desired the worship of angels. (See Job 38:7; Ezek. 28:9; Dan. 8:10.)
 3. I will sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north – Lucifer now seeks to enter God's "executive office" somewhere in the north and sit at his very desk He would attempt to control not only the angels, but also the size and number of the starry galaxies. Note two phrases here:
 - a. "The mount of the congregation" – This is an expression related to the millennial kingdom of God (see Isa. 2:1-4).
 - b. "The sides of the north" – This has to do with the location of Christ's reign during the Millennium. "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King" (Psa. 48:1-2). "For promotion cometh neither

from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another” (Psa. 75:6-7).

It should be observed that the direction north is left out here, indicating promotion does indeed proceed from here. In Babylonian mythology the gods assembled in the north.

4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds – This may well refer to that special shekinah glory cloud of God, where God’s glory dwells, that is found so frequently in the Bible. Satan would take that glory also upon himself. A clear reference to this “glory cloud” is found in Numbers 9:15-23, where God used this “cloud” to direct the children of Israel.

“And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. So it was alway: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents” (Num. 9:15-17).

5. I will be like the most High – It is revealing to note the name for God that Satan uses here. He wanted to be like El Elyon, the most High. This name literally means “the strongest strong one.” The devil could have picked other names for God. He could have used El Shaddai, which means “the breasted one, the one who feeds his children,” but he didn’t. He might have selected Jehovah-Rohi, which means, “the shepherd God,” but he avoided this title also. The reason is obvious. Satan coveted God’s strength, but was not the least bit interested in his feeding and leading attributes. We should note the contrast of the five foolish “I wills” of Lucifer in the garden of God with the prayer of our Lord Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he prayed. “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matt. 26:39).

Therein we see one great example of the differences between Satan and our Lord Jesus, God’s dear Son. Jesus came to do the will of the Father, while Satan viciously fought for his own will.

III. The Personality of Satan

- A. He is a real person – In view of the fact that Satan is a fallen angel from the celestial world, it is not, some believe, unreasonable to suggest that he, too, possesses a body. Not a flesh-and-blood terrestrial body, of course, but perhaps a body of some substance nevertheless. He is a person and has a personality. Paul distinguishes between heavenly bodies and earthly bodies in 1 Corinthians 15: “All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another” (1 Cor. 15:39-40).
- B. He possesses intelligence – Even though sin has corrupted his original perfect wisdom, Satan is still the most knowledgeable creature in the universe. In addition to the innate knowledge given at his creation, he has acquired much experiential knowledge in his war against God and man throughout the centuries after his fall. He was fully aware, for example, of the strength of Job (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7) and the weakness of Peter (Luke 22:31).
- C. He possesses memory – Again, to quote from the author’s article entitled “If I Were the Devil”:

The second thing I would do if I were the devil would be to read the Bible carefully. We are often reminded of how Jesus answered Satan’s temptations in the wilderness with Scripture (Matthew 4). But note that Satan also used Scripture! During the second temptation the devil quoted Psalm 91:11-12 to Christ.

“For it is written, he shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Matt. 4:6).

To be sure he took it completely out of context and twisted it, but Shakespeare was right: “The devil doth quote Scripture.” Another example of this “Scripture-reading serpent” is found in Revelation 12:

“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Rev. 12:12).

Satan will be thrown out of Heaven during the middle of the tribulation and will come down to earth, “having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” How does he know this? The apparent answer is that he has carefully read the ninth chapter of Daniel! If I were the devil I’d

read the Bible. I could then so twist and turn the Scriptures in such a way as to mislead saints and sinners alike. (*The Baptist Bulletin*, Dec. 1971, p. 13)

- D. He possesses a will – Paul instructed Timothy in dealing with backslidden Christians. He said to be gentle, but firm, "that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Tim. 2:26).
- E. He possesses emotions.
 - 1. Desire – He has certain goals; he has things that he wants to see accomplished. "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22:31).
 - 2. Pride – In describing the qualifications of a deacon, Paul lists the following restriction: "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (1 Tim. 3:6).
 - 3. Wrath – "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12:12).
- F. He possesses great organizational ability – The Bible speaks of Satan's synagogues, doctrines, and deep things. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim.4:1). "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 2:9). "But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden" (Rev. 2:24).

- 1. It was the devil who organized and led the first rebellion against God – His organizational ability was proven when he convinced one-third of heaven's angels to march with him. "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born" (Rev. 12:4).

Note: The word *drew* in this passage is from the Greek word *suro*, which means "to drag, or carry something." It is also found in Acts 14:19 when Paul's unconscious body was dragged out of the city of Lystra by his enemies. Thus, Lucifer was able to drag down from their lofty position one-third of heaven's angels.

- 2. It will be the devil who will organize and lead the last rebellion against God – "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Rev. 20:7-9).

Satan's organizational ability will be proven prophetically after the Millennium, when he is loosed from the bottomless pit and once again gathers his army, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. There will apparently be millions of children born to parents saved during the tribulation, and these children will be raised during the Millennium. For one thousand years these children will have to give lip service to King Jesus and King David, but many of them will never be born again. We believe it will be from these unsaved children of the Millennium that Satan will gather together and organize his final rebellion. According to the Bible, he will be highly successful, as he was with his first rebellion. I will again call your attention to Revelation 20:7-8: "Satan shall... deceive the nations... of the earth... gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."

- 3. It was the devil who systematically subjected the Old Testament patriarch Job to fiery trials in an attempt to break him – See Job 1 – 2.

We need to understand Satan's tremendous organizational ability, because we are dealing with the enemy of our soul – Satan.

IV. The Names of Satan – There are no less than 27 names and titles of this perverted ex-prince of paradise, which study by itself gives much insight into his evil character. These names and titles, given in alphabetical order, are:

- A. Abaddon, Apollyon, "destroyer" – "And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon" (Rev. 9:11). The frightful extent of his destructive power is seen during the sixth trumpet

- judgment, at which time his hellish army of demons 200 million strong will kill one-third of all humanity. (See Rev. 9:18.)
- B. Accuser of the brethren – “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Rev. 12:10).
1. He accused Job before God (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7).
 2. He accused Joshua the high priest before God (Zech. 3:1),
- C. Adversary, “to bind, cause distress, oppose” – “O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever?” (Psa. 74:10). “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). (See also 1 Tim. 5:14-15.)
- D. Angel of light – “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14).
- E. Anointed cherub – “Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire” (Ezek. 28:14).
- F. Beelzebub, “prince of demons” – “But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils” (Matt. 12:24).
- G. Belial, “worthless, reckless, lawless” – “And what concord hath Christ with Belial, or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?” (2 Cor. 6:15).
- H. Deceiver, “to lead astray”
1. The first deception involved Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-7).
 2. The final deception will involve millions at the close of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-8).
- It is sobering indeed to observe that both deceptions took place in a perfect environment.
- I. Devil, “slanderer” – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.... Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?” (John 8:44, 48).
- This is his second most referred to title, used 35 times.
- J. Dragon – “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon” (Rev. 12:3). The title dragon is used 12 times, and each instance appears in the book of Revelation.
1. He is a *great red* dragon because of his power.
 2. He is a *great red* dragon because of the horrible blood-letting he has caused throughout the centuries.
 3. He is a *great red dragon* because of his frightful appearance in the spiritual realm.
- K. Enemy, “one’s foe who causes distress” – “The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels” (Matt. 13:39). “So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him” (Isa. 59:19).
- L. God of this world – “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Cor. 4:4). “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa. 119:105). How sad to observe that the true God brightens the path of his people, while in stark contrast the false god blinds the minds of his followers.
- M. King of death – “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Heb. 2:14). “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:17). “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rom. 5:12).
- He is called the King of death because by successfully tempting Adam, the devil helped to bring about both physical and spiritual death upon all mankind.
1. Physical death – “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psa. 90:10).
 2. Spiritual death – “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

- N. Leviathan, “one who dwells in the sea of humanity” – “In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea” (Isa. 27:1).
- O. Liar – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).
 Satan was the source of both the first and final lie in the Bible concerning the very nature of God.
1. First lie – “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:4-5).
 2. Final lie – “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.... Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.... And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” (2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9, 11).
- P. Lucifer, “light bearer, daystar, shining one” – “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” (Isa. 14:12).
- Q. Murderer – “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous” (1 John 3:11-12).
- R. Prince of the power of the air – “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2).
- S. Prince of this world – “After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself” (John 12:31). “Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me” (John 14:30).
- T. Roaring lion – “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). As an angel of light, Satan is a wolf in sheep’s clothing. As a roaring lion, he wears his own clothing.
- U. Ruler of darkness – “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:11-12).
- V. Satan, “hateful accuser, adversary, opposer” – This is his most referred to title, used 52 times.
- W. Serpent – “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3). “That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan” (Rev. 12:9). “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:2). “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Gen. 3:1).
- F. C. Jennings writes:

The word for “serpent” in Hebrew is *nachash*, which may come from the root, to hiss; or, as Dr. Taylor Lewis writes, “is far more likely to have had its sense from the secondary meaning of that root – to shine, whence brass, the shining metal.” This gives, as the first thought in the word for serpent, “splendor,” “glistening,” “bright,” “shining,” either from its glossy appearance, or, more likely, from the bright glistening of the eye. The first impressions of mankind in regards to the serpent were of the splendid and terrible kind – beauty and awe. (*Satan, His Person, Work, Place, and Destiny*, p. 15)

- X. Son of the morning – “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” (Isa. 14:12).
 How tragic to realize this mighty and magnificent angel who was originally created to serve as Son of the morning will someday be eternally condemned to outer darkness, the lake of fire. “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6). “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Rev. 20:10).

- Y. Tempter, “one who entices another to evil” – “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil” (Matt. 4:1). “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted” (Heb. 2:18).
 - Z. Thief – “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).
 - AA. Wicked one, “bad, malignant” – “When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side” (Matt. 13:19). “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (Eph. 6:16).
- V. The Activities of Satan – Whatever else Satan is, he can never be accused of being lazy. He has been working, apparently ever since his fall, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks out of every year. He never sleeps (apparently he doesn’t need sleep). He is continuously at work attempting to keep sinners horn being saved and saints from growing in grace. Let’s examine some of his activities.
- A. His imitation of God – The great ambition and determination of Satan is to be like God. The boast of Lucifer was “I will be like the Most High.” In Satan’s great scheme he imitates and counterfeits the things God is doing, and so fine is his imitation that vast multitudes of people who are actually following Satan’s error think they are serving God. Satan is not an initiator, but an imitator.

Satan is far more elective in matters of imitation than in matters of opposition. We often think of Satan as the great opposer of the plan of God – and certainly he is – but sometimes the best opposition against something is a clever imitation.

 - 1. In regard to the Trinity
 - a. The true Trinity – “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen” (2 Cor. 13:14),
 - b. The false trinity – In this arrangement Satan assumes the role of the Father, the Antichrist that of the Son, and the false prophet that of the Holy Spirit. (See Rev. 13:2, 11-12; 2 Thess. 2:8-9.)
 - 2. In regard to ministers
 - a. True ministers – “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you (John 15:16).
 - b. False ministers – “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ” (2 Cor. 11:13).
 - 3. In regard to teachers
 - a. True teachers (Acts 13:1; Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 2:7)
 - b. False teachers – “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Pet. 2:1).
 - 4. In regard to spiritual children
 - a. The true seed – “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.... In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother” (1 John 3:1, 10).
 - b. The false seed – “The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one” (Matt. 13:38). “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).
 - 5. In regard to worshippers
 - a. The true ones – “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him” (John 4:23). “Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest” (Rev. 15:4).
 - b. The false ones – “And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?... And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:4, 8).
 - 6. In regard to angels

- a. The elect ones – “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels” (Heb. 12:22).
 - b. The evil ones – “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).
7. In regard to miracles
- a. Divine miracles – “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people” (Matt. 4:23). “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him” (John 3:2).
 - b. Devilish miracles – “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” (2 Thess. 2:9). “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt. 7:21-23).
8. In regard to marks of identification
- a. Divine mark – “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30). “Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads” (Rev. 7:3).
 - b. Devilish mark – “And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads” (Rev. 13:16).
9. In regard to ruling headquarters
- a. God’s capital – “And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord said, In Jerusalem will I put my name” (2 Kings 21:4).
 - b. Satan’s capital
 - (1) Original, Babylon (Gen. 11:1-9)
 - (2) Old Testament times, possibly Babylon and Tyre (Isa. 14:4-17; Ezek. 28:1-19)
 - (3) New Testament times, Pergamos – “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth” (Rev. 2:12-13).
 - (4) Final, Babylon (Zech. 5:5-11; Rev. 17:5; 18:2) – “And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (Rev. 17:5). “And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee” (Rev. 18:2),
10. In regard to kingdoms
- a. God’s kingdom – “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15).
 - b. Satan’s kingdom – “And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it” (Luke 4:5-6). “And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain” (Rev. 16:10).
11. In regard to mysteries
- a. The mystery of godliness: The fullness of God in the person of Christ – “And without controversy peat is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Tim. 3:16).
 - b. The mystery of iniquity: The fullness of Satan in the person of Antichrist – “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.... For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way" (2 Thess. 2:3, 7, NIV).

12. In regard to doctrine

- a. The theology of God – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16). “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Cor. 2:9-10).
- b. The theology of Satan – “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Tim. 4:1). “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Tim. 4:3). “But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden” (Rev. 2:24).

B. His activities against God

1. Concerning the Scriptures – Simon Peter ends his second epistle as follows: “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction” (2 Pet. 3:15-16).

- a. Satan adds to the Scriptures – “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book” (Rev. 22:18).

This is, in essence, what the cults do. The *Book of Mormon* and the writings of a Mary Baker Eddy or a Charles Taze Russell represent foolish and futile attempts to add to the Word of God.

- b. Satan deletes from the Scriptures – “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Rev. 22:19).

This is, in essence, what the liberals do. They brazenly strike out certain biblical truths such as the literal Virgin Birth of Christ, his bodily resurrection, the doctrine of hell, etc.

- c. Satan denies the inerrancy of the Scriptures – During the 1950s, a disturbing sound was heard coming from certain sections of the evangelical world that said, in effect, that while the Bible was indeed inspired, it was not necessarily inerrant. This said one could accept at face value all the spiritual and moral statements in the Word of God, but must carefully examine for possible human error the scientific, historical, and geographical statements.

- d. Satan misinterprets the Scriptures – By doing this, he has led people to believe:

- (1) That one must be baptized to be saved, based on Acts 2:38
- (2) That one is saved by faith plus works, based on James 2:14, 24
- (3) That one can sin away his day of grace, based on Matthew 12:31-32
- (4) That God desires to keep all Christians in perfect health, based on Matthew 8:17 and 3 John 2
- (5) That a believer may achieve sinless perfection here on earth, based on 1 John 3:9
- (6) That speaking in tongues is the sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, based on Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians 14
- (7) That an unmarried believer is more spiritual than a married believer, based on 1 Corinthians 7:32-34

This is not to say, of course, that all those holding one or more of the views are unsaved and demon-possessed. Not in the least, for many of God’s choice Christians have at one time or another in their lives fallen victim to one of these misinterpretations. The point is simply this: All misinterpretations come from either human error or satanic influence, and probably more often than not the latter is involved.

- e. Satan overemphasizes certain parts of the Scriptures.

- (1) By stressing the sovereignty of God to the exclusion of the responsibility of man
- (2) By stressing the responsibility of man to the exclusion of the sovereignty of God

- f. Satan takes the Scriptures out of their proper context – This he did when tempting Jesus by quoting Psalm 91:11-12 out of its intended context. (See Matt. 4:6.)

- g. Satan instigates false doctrine – “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Tim. 4:1). “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Tim. 4:3-4).
2. Concerning the Savior – There are at least six recorded occasions when Satan specifically attacked the Savior.
- In Bethlehem, where he attempted to kill him – “And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him” (Matt. 2:13).
 - In the wilderness, where he tempted him
 - In matters of independence (Matt. 4:3-4)
 - In matters of indulgence (Matt. 4:5-7)
 - In matters of idolatry (Matt. 4:8-10)
- Outline as suggested by Charles Ryrie (*Basic Theology*, p. 147).
- At Caesarea Philippi, where he attempted to sidetrack him from Calvary (first occasion) – “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men” (Matt. 16:21-23).
 - At the Feast of Passover, where he attempted to sidetrack him from Calvary (second occasion) – “Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.... Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:27, 31-32).
 - In the Upper Room, where he arranged to betray him – “When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.... He then lying on Jesus’ breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly” (John 13:21, 25-27).
 - In Gethsemane, where he attempted to break him emotionally and physically. “And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; and saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt” (Mark 14:32-36). “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:44).
3. Concerning the saint
- He sows tares among God’s wheat – “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matt. 13:24-30).
- One of the most dangerous characteristics of a tare is that, at least for a while in the early stages, it is identical in appearance to a grain of wheat. So where would we go to find the tares? This may come as a shock, but probably we would not go to the liberal churches or the taverns. Instead we would look for tares in Bible-believing, evangelical, conservative,

fundamental churches. Often Satan does plant his tares among the wheat of God's fundamental churches. They speak the same language, sing the same songs, and are familiar with the same theology. Yet they have never been born again – not because they do not know the plan of salvation, but because they are of Satan. So who are the real tares? Some day the question will be asked, “Will the real tares please stand up.” And, of course, the Lord Jesus then, during the *harvest*, will weed them out from the wheat (the believers).

- b. He hinders the work of God's servants – “Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us” (1 Thess. 2:18). He cannot do this, of course, except by the direct permission of God, who sometimes allows hindrances to teach the believer spiritual lessons.
- c. He resists the prayers of God's servants – “Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia” (Dan. 10:12-13).

Again, as in the former point, it should be noted that Satan cannot do this without God's approval. Understand this – God always answers all faithful prayers that he hears from believers. But sometimes there is a delay. It's a delay that God allows and that God permits, but it is a delay caused by satanic interference. So Satan does resist the prayers of God's servants.

- d. He accuses Christians before God – “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Rev. 12:10).
- (1) He accused Job (Job 1:7-12; 2:3-6).
 - (2) He accused Joshua the high priest (Zech. 3:1).

These verses inform us of one of Satan's greatest ministries – that of bad-mouthing Christians. Job 1 – 2 and Zechariah 3 refer to Satan being at the right hand of the Father. So he has access to the very right hand of God. Even as you go about your daily activities of life, Satan, who never sleeps, is continuously at work at the right hand of the Father, making intercession *against* the believer and attempting to slander the child of God. Tragically, sometimes he doesn't even have to exaggerate. This is one of the reasons Christ had to ascend back to heaven – that he might function in the believer's defense. The following passages speak of this ministry.

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:31-32). “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25). “Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us” (Rom. 8:33-34).

- e. He lays snares for believers – “Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil” (1 Tim. 3:7). “And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Tim. 2:26).

There is a little poem that reads: “When the danger least thou fearest, then the devil's snare is nearest.”

In the verses above, Paul admonishes Timothy to warn other members of the church “that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” Often the child of God becomes careless and feels he is past the point of being ensnared by a certain sin. Quite often a person will be aware he has problems in certain areas of his life and be on guard, but feels he doesn't have to worry about other areas of his life. Satan loves to go around and come in the back door. He hits quite often in the strong areas. The Bible is filled with instances where men failed God in their strong points and not in their weak points. Let's look at a few of these instances.

- (1) Moses – If one analyzes the life of Moses and picks his strongest characteristic, it would be his meekness. The Bible says that the man Moses was a meek man – he was the meekest man on earth (Num. 12:3). He wasn't a *weak* man, but he was a *meek* man. This

means he had sustained strength – he didn't lose his cool. He controlled his emotions. Yet, he was guilty of anger, which is the antithesis of meekness. This sin of anger kept him out of the promised land. Moses failed God on his strong point.

- (2) Elijah – Elijah, the prophet, had boldness – this was his great source of strength. This fearless prophet stood up single-handedly against 450 priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:17-46), and yet in 1 Kings 19 he ran for his life from a woman. He failed God in his strong point.
- (3) David – David's two outstanding characteristics were his purity (here is the man who wrote the Twenty-Third Psalm) and his kindness. David refused on a number of occasions to kill his enemies. He refused to kill Saul. He refused to kill a man named Shimi. He refused to kill a man named Nabal. All of these were ungodly men who deserved to be killed. But David in his kindness could not kill them, and he said in matters pertaining to Saul, "God forbid that I should touch God's anointed." Yet David failed God in matters of adultery and murder – the opposite of purity and kindness.

These men were, most likely, more concerned with their weak points than their strong points. Satan, thus, hit them on strong points in their lives by laying snares. Each of us should keep our guard up because Satan is determined to lay snares for anyone who stands for God in this world.

- f. He tempts believers – "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).
 - (1) God tests with the idea of making better, as seen in Genesis 22:1 – "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am."
 - (2) Satan tempts by enticing people to do evil – It is no sin to be tempted. In fact, it is a tragedy if you claim to be a child of God and you are not tempted. It simply means you are so worthless in Satan's sight that he doesn't even give the command for one of his cohorts to tempt you. Many people feel that because they are tempted to do certain things they are not as close to God as they should be. However, this is not the case. In fact, to the contrary, the Bible says we are to rejoice in the hour and in the midst of temptation, because God is going to allow us to suffer for Christ, and he will purify us through the fire of temptation. Tempt, Satan does. However, the limitation of Satan's power to tempt the child of God is found in 1 Cor. 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
- g. He afflicts believers – "So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown" (Job 2:7). "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" (2 Cor. 12:7).

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

The sobering fact to keep in mind here is that Satan's victims in these passages are believers. While Satan cannot *possess* a Christian, he can certainly *oppress* a child of God – mentally, emotionally, and physically. He afflicted Job with boils. He afflicted the Apostle Paul. Sometimes God allows the believer to be afflicted to *purify* him (as in the case of Job). There are times when God allows a believer to be afflicted to *punish* him for some sin. Paul writes about this in 1 Cor. 5:3-5: "For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Cor. 5:3-5).
- h. He influences believers to disobey God.
 - (1) As seen by David – "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel" (1 Chron. 21:1).
 - (2) As seen by Peter
 - (a) He influenced Peter to rebuke Jesus (Matt. 16:22-23).
 - (b) He influenced Peter to deny Jesus (John 13:38; 18:15-18, 25-27).

- (3) As seen by Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) – “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?” (Acts 5:3),
4. Concerning the sinner
- a. He blinds the unsaved to the truth – “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Cor. 4:4).
 - b. He steals the Word of God from their hearts – “And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.... Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart, This is he which received seed by the way side” (Matt. 13:3-4, 18-19).
 - c. He deceives the unsaved – The words *deceive*, *deceitful*, and *deceit* are found some 50 times in the New Testament. It is sobering to contemplate that the vast majority of these references have to do with satanic religious deception in the last days.
 - (1) The messengers of deception
 - (a) The men of sin – “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matt. 24:24).
 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 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” (2 Cor. 11:13-15). “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:13).
 - (b) The man of sin – “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2 Thess. 2:9-10).
 - (2) The message of deception – “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matt. 24:4-5). “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” (2 John 7).
 - (3) The means of deception – “And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.
 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed” (Rev. 13:14-15).
5. Concerning the systems – In the beginning God created four special institutions, or systems, for the overall well being of mankind. Because of their origin and purpose Satan has viciously and persistently attacked all four institutions.
- a. The institution of marriage
 - (1) The birth – And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man, Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:21-24).
 - (2) The battle – “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency” (1 Cor. 7:3-5).

Very few marriage counselors ever take satanic activity into consideration when advising couples having marital problems. Sometimes the real fault lies not with the husband or wife, but squarely with Satan. The devil despises the very institution of marriage because it was originated and given by God himself.

- b. The institution of human government
 - (1) The birth – It probably had its beginnings with the Cainite civilization (Gen. 4:16-22). Whatever the spiritual condition of this civilization might have been, the fact remains the powers that be are ordained of God. (See Dan. 4:25; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-14, 17.)
 - (2) The battle – “But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities” (2 Pet. 2:10).
- c. The institution of the nation Israel
 - (1) The birth – “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing” (Gen. 12:1-2).
 - (2) The battle – “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.... And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:13, 17).
 - (a) Pharaoh – The Egyptian tried to drown them (Exod. 14).
 - (b) Sennacherib – The Assyrian tried to starve them (2 Kings 19).
 - (c) Nebuchadnezzar – The Babylonian tried to burn them (Dan. 3).
 - (d) Haman – The Persian tried to hang them (Esther 3).
- d. The institution of the church
 - (1) The birth – “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:1-2).
 - (2) The battle – “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12).

VI. The Various Geographical and Spiritual Locations of Satan – The devil is like a check forger in that he moves around constantly. Satan has been to, is in, or will occupy the following six locations.

- A. Past location – In the heavenlies as God’s choir leader (Ezek. 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-14)
- B. Present location – In the heavenlies as God’s chief enemy (Job 1:6; 2:1; Zech. 3:1)
- C. Future locations
 - 1. On earth during the great tribulation – “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him, And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.... Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Rev. 12:9-10, 12).
 - 2. In the bottomless pit during the Millennium – “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season” (Rev. 20:1-3).
 - 3. On earth following the Millennium – “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea” (Rev. 20:7-8).

4. In the lake of fire forever – “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Rev. 20:10).

VII. The Limitations of Satan – As one compiles and analyzes the many Bible passages on Satan, it is evident that he is the most powerful creature in all God’s universe. This depraved and deadly dragon possesses more strength and savvy than any archangel or saint. But in spite of all this, he is still a creature and not the Creator. Because of this blessed truth, his power and knowledge is limited. We shall now consider the restrictions of this red dragon.

- A. He is not omnipresent – The devil cannot be in China, Chicago, and Cuba at the same instant. However, this is not to say that believers in those areas cannot be tempted at the same instant, for Satan has literally millions of fallen angels to do his bidding, thus extending his ministry universally. But only God is omnipresent. Satan cannot say, as Jesus once said to his followers, “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Satan is not omnipresent.
- B. He is not omnipotent – While he is still the strongest creature in the universe, his power compared to God’s is like an ant pitted against a mighty elephant. There are a number of things Satan cannot do. For example, he cannot so frustrate the Word of God that it will not bring its eventual fruit. According to the book of Isaiah, the Word of God shall not return void, but it shall accomplish the purpose for which God sent it (Isaiah 55:11). Satan cannot drag the saved soul of a believer to hell; he cannot cause a saved person to become lost. Satan is not omnipotent.
- C. He is not omniscient – The devil has, admittedly, acquired an immense amount of knowledge by simply being around during the last 6,000+ years, but he is totally ignorant of many things known by the most humble and uneducated believer. He knows nothing of God’s love, his mercy, his grace, and his forgiveness. The devil does not know the future, nor all the secrets of the past. The question is often asked if Satan doesn’t know his doom is sealed and the lake of fire will be his eternal imprisonment. He is indeed aware of these prophecies, but it must be kept in mind that according to Ezekiel 28:17 sin has corrupted the wisdom of Satan to the point where he still thinks he can defeat God. Sometimes the most clever criminal is a psychopathic killer.

VIII. The Christian’s Victory over Satan – The word *nako* is found 28 times in the Greek New Testament and is almost always translated as “overcome.” There are three important verses where this word is used: “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4). “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son” (Rev. 21:7).

If language means anything at all, these verses promise the child of God total victory over his enemy, the devil. But how does the Christian experience this promised victory? He does it by keeping the same fundamental facts in mind that any would-be victor would, whether in the secular or spiritual battlefield.

These four fundamental facts are: (a) he must know his own weakness; (b) he must know his own strength; (c) he must know the weakness of his enemy; and (d) he must know the strength of his enemy. To either overestimate or underestimate in any of these four areas could prove to be a fatal error.

In one of his parables, our Lord warns of this very thing. “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassador, and desireth conditions of peace” (Luke 14:28-32).

Let us now examine these four facts the victor must be aware of:

- A. The weakness of the Christian – “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:5-6).

When I was first saved, I felt the Christian life was a 50/50 proposition. That is to say, I would carry my 50 percent of the load, and God would assume the remaining half. But to my dismay, I kept dropping my end of the load. I then suggested to God that we alter the proportions whereby he would carry 60 percent and I would be responsible for the remaining 40 percent. But alas, this also proved too heavy. So, I reasoned, a 70/30 agreement would surely work. But again, failure. Finally, after many years in the work of the Lord, I sometimes think I have things down to a 98/2 arrangement. I still am tempted to feel that by *now* I must surely be able to carry on at least 2 percent of the Master’s work by

myself. There simply *has* to be something I can perform in the flesh for God. But Jesus said, “Without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5).

In Romans 7:18 Paul refers to this very thing. “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not” (Rom. 7:18).

So the first basic fact of which we as Christians must be aware in order to assure victory over Satan is our own weakness.

- B. The strength of the Christian – This is the second vital principle to be observed in guaranteeing spiritual success. What, though, is our chief strength? The answer is found in the following passages. “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

The power of the universe is owned by the Lord Jesus Christ. This power is described in Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Keep in mind that the will of God will never lead you where the grace of God and the strength of God cannot sustain you.

- C. The weakness of Satan – Third, we must fully understand the weakness of our enemy. According to the Scriptures, the devil is powerless in the following areas:
1. He cannot tempt a believer except by God’s permission – “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Cor. 10:13).

God knows exactly how much his child can bear. He will not allow Satan to go beyond this breaking point. Remember, when you are being tempted, Satan has had to first get the permission from God to tempt you. God only allows the temptation in the first place to strengthen and purify his children. “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 1:6-7).

2. He cannot stand to be resisted – “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). But how does one go about resisting the devil? James answers this – by submitting first to God. “Neither give place to the devil” (Eph. 4:27). Satan enjoys a lively debate (like the one he carried on with Eve in Genesis 3), but he cannot tolerate being resisted. The Christian can successfully resist the devil if he does the following:

- a. The Christian must know how the devil attacks – “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor. 2:11).

But what are his devices? In section D of this study we will briefly consider the 16 deadly devices of Satan.

- b. The Christian must stand guard waiting for Satan to attack – “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

Do you remember what you were doing on December 7, 1941? Perhaps this is just a date in history to you. This was the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. There had been all sorts of indirect evidence that Pearl Harbor would be subjected to an attack, even as much as six months earlier. Yet, on this particular Sunday morning in December 1941, 3,200 of our boys went out into eternity, and several of our ships were sunk. Why? Because even though there had been some indirect information concerning an attack, we were not standing guard when the Japanese did attack. So, as Peter warns us in the passage above, we must stand guard waiting for Satan to attack.

- c. The Christian must have on the proper protection when Satan attacks – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all,

taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (Eph. 6:10-17).

In this passage it seems very probable that the Holy Spirit led Paul to use the analogy of the pieces of armor worn by the Roman soldier of the day to illustrate the Christian’s proper protection against Satan.

Warren Wiersbe aptly describes and applies each piece of this armor:

(1) The girdle of truth (v. 14a)

Satan is a liar (John 8:44), but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat him. The girdle holds the other parts of the armor together, and truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christian. A man of integrity, with a clear conscience, can face the enemy without fear. The girdle also held the sword. Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth. Once a lie gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart. For over a year, King David lied about his sin with Bathsheba, and nothing went right. Psalms 32 and 51 tell of the price he paid.

(2) The breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b)

This piece of armor, made of metal plates or chains, covered the body from the neck to the waist, both front and back. It symbolizes the believer’s righteousness in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21) as well as his righteous life in Christ (Eph. 4:24). Satan is the accuser, but he cannot accuse the believer who is living a godly life in the power of the Spirit. The life we live either fortifies us against Satan’s attacks or makes it easier for him to defeat us (2 Cor. 6:1-10). When Satan accuses the Christian, it is the righteousness of Christ that assures the believer of his salvation. But our positional righteousness in Christ, without practical righteousness in the daily life, only gives Satan opportunity to attack us.

(3) The shoes of the gospel (v. 15)

The Roman soldier wore sandals with hobnails in the soles to give him better footing for the battle. If we are going to “stand” and “withstand,” then we need the shoes of the Gospel. Because we have the peace with God (Rom. 5:1) that comes from the Gospel, we need not fear the attack of Satan or men. We must be at peace with God and with each other if we are to defeat the devil (James 4:1-7). But the shoes have another meaning. We must be prepared each day to share the Gospel of peace with a lost world. The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian. If we wear the shoes of the Gospel, then we have the “beautiful feet” mentioned in Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:15. Satan has declared war, but you and I are ambassadors of peace (2 Cor. 5:18-21); and, as such, we take the Gospel of peace wherever we go.

(4) The shield of faith (v. 16)

The shield was large, usually about four feet by two feet, made of wood, and covered with tough leather. As the soldier held it before him, it protected him from spears, arrows, and “fiery darts.” The edges of these shields were so constructed that an entire line of soldiers could interlock shields and march into the enemy like a solid wall. This suggests that we Christians are not in the battle alone. The “faith” mentioned here is not saving faith, but rather living faith, a trust in the promises and power of God. Faith is a defensive weapon which protects us from Satan’s fiery darts.

In Paul’s day, arrows, dipped in some inflammable substance and ignited, were shot at the enemy. Satan shoots “fiery darts” at our hearts and minds: lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires for sin. If we do not by faith quench these darts, they will light a fire within and we will disobey God. We never know when Satan will shoot a dart at us, so we must always walk by faith and use the shield of faith.

(5) The helmet of salvation (v. 17)

Satan wants to attack the mind, the way he defeated Eve (Gen. 3; 2 Cor. 11:1-3). The helmet refers to the mind controlled by God. It is too bad that many Christians have the idea that the intellect is not important, when in reality it plays a vital role in Christian

growth, service, and victory. When God controls the mind, Satan cannot lead the believer astray. The Christian who studies his Bible and learns the meaning of Bible doctrines is not going to be led astray too easily. We need to be “taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus” (Eph. 4:21). We are to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter. 3:18). Whenever Paul ministered, he taught the new converts the truths of the Word of God, and this helmet protected them from Satan's lies.

(6) The sword of the Spirit (v. 17b)

This sword is the offensive weapon God provides us. The Roman soldier wore on his girdle a short sword which was used for close-in fighting. Hebrews 4:12 compares the Word of God to a sword, because it is sharp and is able to pierce the inner man just as a material sword pierces the body. You and I were “cut to the heart” (Acts 2:37; 5:33) when the Word convicted us of our sins. Peter tried to use a sword to defend Jesus in the garden (Luke 22:47-51); but he learned at Pentecost that the “sword of the Spirit” does a much better job. Moses also tried to conquer with a physical sword (Exod. 2:11-15), only to discover that God's word alone was more than enough to defeat Egypt.

A material sword pierces the body, but the word of God pierces the heart. The more you use a physical sword, the duller it becomes; but using God's Word only makes it sharper in our lives. A physical sword requires the hand of a soldier, but the sword of the Spirit has its own power, for it is “living and powerful” (Heb. 4:12). The Spirit wrote the Word, and the Spirit wields the Word as we take it by faith and use it. A physical sword wounds to hurt and kill, while the sword of the Spirit wounds to heal and give life. But when we use the sword against Satan, we are out to deal him a blow that will cripple him and keep him from hindering God's work.

In one sense, the “whole armor of God” is a picture of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Truth (John 14:6), and He is our righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21) and our peace (Eph. 2:14). His faithfulness makes possible our faith (Gal. 2:20); He is our salvation (Luke 2:30); and He is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14). This means that when we trusted Christ, we received the armor. Paul told the Romans what to do with the armor (Rom. 13:11-14); wake up (Rom. 13:11), cast off sin, and “put on the armor of light” (Rom. 13:12). We do this by putting “on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 13:14). By faith, put on the armor and trust God for the victory. Once and for all, we have put on the armor at the moment of salvation. But there must be a daily appropriation. When King David put off his armor and returned to his palace, he was in greater danger than when he was on the battlefield (2 Sam. 11). We are never out of reach of Satan's devices, so we must never be without the whole armor of God.” (*Be Rich [Ephesians]*, pp. 58 – 59)

One final thought concerning the action of the believer in regards to this equipment:

As pilgrims we walk, as witnesses we talk, as contenders we run, but as fighters we stand.

3. He cannot stand the blood of Christ nor the Christian's testimony – “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death” (Rev. 12:11).

The blood of Jesus Christ not only cleanses us from sin, but it defeats Satan in the process. If you need to check out a person theologically, ask that person what he thinks of the blood of Christ. Right away, his response to this will determine his spirituality or his lack of spirituality. If the person is unsaved or not in the right relationship with God, or if he is controlled by the devil, you will be able to determine it from his reaction to such a question. Satan cannot stand the blood of Christ nor the positive testimony of a Christian. We may rest assured that songs like “Power in the Blood” and “Nothing but the Blood” will never be put on the top ten of the Hades' Hit Parade.

- D. The strength of Satan – The following list could well be called “The 16 Deadly Ds of the Devil.”
 1. Disappointment: To be disappointed is to forget – “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28).
 2. Discouragement: To be discouraged is to forget – “And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God” (1 Sam. 30:6).
 3. Despair: To despair is to forget – “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair” (2 Cor. 4:8).

4. Doubt: To doubt is to forget – “I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting” (1 Tim, 2:8).
5. Disbelief: To disbelieve is to forget – “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God” (Heb. 3:12).
6. Distraction: To be distracted is to forget – “But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me” (Matt. 14:30).
7. Doublemindedness: To be double-minded is to forget – “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8).
8. Dishonesty: To be dishonest is to forget – “But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God” (2 Cor. 4:2).
9. Deceit: To be deceitful is to forget – “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9).
10. Dullness: To suffer dullness is to forget – “Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing” (Heb. 5:11).
11. Deadness: To suffer deadness is to forget – “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Heb. 9:14).
 “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead” (Rev. 3:1).
12. Delay: To delay is to forget – “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1).
13. Defilement: To be defiled is to forget – “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Cor. 3:16-17).
14. Defamation: to defame someone is to forget – “Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer” (Psa. 101:5). “He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool” (Prov. 10:18).
15. Disobedience: To disobey is to forget – “And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Sam. 15:22).
 “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom. 6:14-18).
16. Discord: to sow discord is to forget – “Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.” (Prov. 6:14). “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren” (Prov. 6:16-19).