

**Christianity 101**

**Handling Satan!**

A Bible Study of The Mount Zion Church

Written by  
Pastor Ken Patterson



Introduction: I was wondering about the depiction of Satan in art and literature. The image of horns and hooves and a goatee are not described in the Bible. Historians disagree on the origin considering most of the modern renditions of Satan with horns begin in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The Bible clearly identifies that Satan is real though we may not be able to trace man's image of Satan. More important than our vision of Satan is our handling of Satan. In the following lesson, students will search scripture's explanation of who Satan is and what his intent is for all of mankind. The purpose is to give learners the opportunity to have a basic understanding of how to manage the attacks which Satan launches against us. The Hebrew term śātān (Hebrew: שָׂטָן) is a generic noun meaning "accuser" or "adversary" and is derived from a verb meaning primarily "to obstruct, oppose". In this lesson, we will see how he lives up to the character of his name.

### Satan is a Created Being

In scripture, we find that God created Satan. In the prophetic book of Ezekiel chapter 28: 13-15 readers are given a comparison of the King of Tyre with Satan. We find in this chapter a description which in verse 14 includes that Satan was a created being and had prominence until he chose wickedness over honoring God.

**<sup>13</sup> You were in Eden,  
the garden of God;  
every precious stone adorned  
you:  
ruby, topaz, and emerald,  
chrysolite, onyx, and jasper,  
sapphire, turquoise, and  
beryl.  
Your settings and mountings  
were made of gold;  
on the day you were created  
they were prepared.**

**<sup>14</sup> You were anointed as a  
guardian cherub,  
for so I ordained you.  
You were on the holy mount of  
God;  
you walked among the fiery  
stones.  
<sup>15</sup> You were blameless in your  
ways  
from the day you were  
created  
till wickedness was found in  
you.  
<sup>16</sup> Through your widespread  
trade  
you were filled with violence,**

**and you sinned.  
So I drove you in disgrace from  
the mount of God,**

**and I expelled you, O  
guardian cherub,  
from among the fiery stones.**

When one reads Ezekiel 28, they must read carefully so as not to think that the writer is saying the King of Tyre was the one from the beginning in Eden. The purpose is to show the evilness of the King by showing how Satan fell from his purpose by choosing evil intent and behavior. One can clearly see that the Bible indicates that our adversary did not create himself nor was he non-created as is God. This gives us an exciting understanding because this means the following.

1. He is not omnipotent-since he was created, he is within the control of God
2. He is not eternal-since he had a beginning, he will have an end
3. He is not omniscient-since he is within God's control, like all creation, he is limited in what he can do and what he understands

---

*Why do you think Satan wants to be God? Jealousy!*

---

These should be very comforting as we learn more in the Bible because it indicates to us that God's plan is greater than the enemy's plan. Satan is limited even though he has some power because God created him. He wants to have control and to be God, but he cannot because he is not God. As such, God still has control over what he can and cannot do!

This is clearly shown in Job 1: 12 where God limits what Satan can do to Job. God's control is also shown in Revelation 12: 9 where Satan is thrown out of Heaven to Earth. Additionally, in Matthew 28: 18, Jesus declares that there is no authority outside of Himself in Heaven or on Earth. Thus, he has authority over everything including our adversary.

### Satan Has a Plan

The best explanation of the plan of our enemy is found in John 10:10.

<sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

This plan of destruction can be seen from the beginning when we observe that the serpent is utilized to steal mankind's purpose and place. He tempts them which leads to their spiritual death. When they eat the fruit, their existence in the Garden of Eden is destroyed. Their relationship with one another, the animals, and God is destroyed. Satan came and seemingly ruined everything. **Thank God, there was a plan before the foundation of the world to save us from Satan's plan.**

1 Peter 1: 19-20.

1. How have you seen Satanic plans (steal, kill, destroy) functioning in your life?

Remember, our enemy is also an accuser or adversary. These terms are legal terms which bring us back to our lessons on sin and salvation. As our accuser, his intent is to bring up the fact that each of us deserves

---

*God always has a plan to override Satan's plan! See 1 Peter 1: 19-20.*

---

destruction. Why? Because he knows he will be destroyed as well. Consider the Job passages. A close analysis shows that Job was considered righteous in God's eyes and Satan's plan was to show God that he was not. The bet was that Job was only righteous because God blessed him, but if he lost his blessings (things, family, wealth, and health) he would turn his back on God. The result would be that Job would deserve to die.

1. In what ways do you recognize our accuser trying to cause you to remember your past sins and remind you of your unworthiness?

Remember, our lesson on salvation taught us that we actually do deserve to die, but Jesus substitutes himself for us and we are considered righteous. Satan's plan is to accuse us of our wrong and to put us in a position where we deserve what unrighteous people deserve. **Again, God already had a plan!** Jesus! Romans 8: 1-2 proclaims our victory in Jesus!

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

<sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

## How Can I Handle Satan

It would be untrue to say that handling our enemy is easy. It is not. Eons of practice on his part put us in a position not to understand the tricks of his trade. However, the Bible does inform us of what Satan does! He does the same thing over and over but repackages it to seem different. Notice, in James 1: 14-15 we find a general description of what sin is:

<sup>4</sup>but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Sin is us giving into our own evil desires after we are tempted. But what does temptation look like? In Genesis 3, we see the full scope of what temptation looks like.

### Genesis 3: 6

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

#### ➤ All temptation falls under these three!

- A. It is something that satisfies a craving I have
- B. It is something that is attractive to my eye or will be attractive to others' eyes
- C. It provides me some special knowledge/ experiences I think I need



This means, that I can combat Satan's plan if I slow down and ask God key questions such as...

1. God, can you show me where I am empty and fill my cravings (woman at the well)?
2. God can you help me to not need the fanfare of the crowd so I don't seek things to elevate me (Pharisees and religious leaders..the ESPN highlight)?
3. God can you teach me and tell me what I need to know and do not need to know (lean not unto your own understanding)?

These answers are all found in God's Word. This means, I have the actual playbook to combat my enemy and I even have an example named Jesus!

## WHAT DID JESUS DO?

In Matthew 4, Mark 1, and Luke 4 readers can find Jesus' temptation by Satan. The 40 days of tempting came during a fasting period. So, Jesus was physically weak as he was under attack. If we look at the recorded attacks, we can identify how Jesus overcame the temptations. One particular phrase stands out. "It is written..." Jesus used The Word to overcome the words of temptation. On each occasion, He relies on what The Word said and meant and because of that approach, Satan left Him alone.

Did you know that The Word has the power to help us overcome the temptations of our enemy? James 4: 7 is clear:

**“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”**

As we observe Jesus' approach to fighting the enemy, we see that the power to overcome the temptation and attacks is in the weapon we have been given. The list of armor we are given in Ephesians 6 includes only 1 attacking weapon. Everything else is protective. The one weapon is Ephesians 6: 13, The Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God! We fight with The Word!

When Jesus used it, Satan left. James declares if we submit to God (we learn how in The Word), the devil will flee. Ephesians reads we have a weapon which is The Word. Therefore, we now know why we need to study, know, and lean on The Word. It is our weapon to handle our enemy!

Final Task: Over the next week, spend a few minutes each day in God's word learning something new that God wants you to know, which will help you resist the devil. Write in your journal what you have learned and share it with the class next week!