

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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Satan

- False Concepts About Satan
 - Many people falsely believe that Satan does not really exist and that the supposed person of Satan is nothing more than an evil principle, or influence, which is in man and in the world.
 - ✦ As we shall see in this study, the Bible provides abundant evidence that Satan is a real person.
 - ✦ The evidence in Scripture is just as convincing concerning the reality of the person of Satan as it is concerning the reality of the person of Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ Therefore, if the personality of Jesus Christ is accepted on the testimony of the Bible, then the personality of Satan must also be accepted on the same testimony.
 - Others falsely believe that Satan is the direct cause of sin in every person.
 - ✦ Satan's goal is not to promote sin, but to make himself "like the Most High" (Isa 14:14).
 - To accomplish this goal, Satan is attempting to gain control of the world-system through whatever means necessary, including disguising himself as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14).
 - In addition to temptations in the area of sin, Satan promotes a counterfeit righteousness in the form of human good (Gen 3:5).
 - ✦ Scripture teaches us that human sin comes directly from the fallen human heart (Gen 6:5; Mark 7:18-23; James 1:13-15).
- The Personality of Satan
 - Satan was created as a person.
 - ✦ God created all things, both visible and invisible (Col 1:16).
 - ✦ Among all the heavenly host, Satan's creation is the only one mentioned in particular, giving us an indication of his supreme position (initially) among the invisible creatures of God.
 - He was created perfect, wise and beautiful (Ezek 28:12-13).
 - He was created in perfect righteousness (Ezek 28:15a).
 - He was anointed as a guardian cherub (Ezek 28:14a, 16b) which means he was granted authority from God.
 - He was placed by God on His holy mountain (Ezek 28:14b) which means he was placed into a position of authority.

- Scripture reveals the personality of Satan.
 - ✦ Isa 14:13-14: Satan expresses the will of his heart.
 - ✦ Gen 3:1-5: Every word spoken is evidence of Satan's personality.
 - ✦ Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7: These conversations with God reveal that Satan has access to God (Luke 22:31; Rev 12:10) and men (1 Pet 5:8) and that he exhibits every feature of a true personality.
 - ✦ Luke 4:1-13: Satan's temptations directed at Jesus Christ show his craftiness (2 Cor 11:3) and intelligence.
 - ✦ Eph 6:10-12: Satan's ability to make plans (schemes) against the children of God is revealed. NOTE: Satan does not wage war against unbelievers as they are in his power (Eph 2:2; 1 Jn 5:19).
- The Power of Satan
 - Though Satan has been judged (John 16:11), the power he is able to wield should not be underestimated.
 - ✦ On the angelic earth Satan weakened nations, shook kingdoms, held prisoners captive, made the earth tremble, overthrew its cities, made the world like a wilderness (Isa 14:12-17).
 - ✦ Satan holds the power of death (Heb 2:14 cp. Rev 1:18).
 - ✦ Satan has power over the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:6).
 - ✦ Satan is able to inflict sickness upon us (Job 2:7).
 - ✦ Satan is able to sift us like wheat (Luke 22:31).
 - ✦ Satan is able to destroy our flesh (1 Cor 5:5).
 - ✦ NOTE: Satan's power is exercised in the permissive will of God.
 - Satan is assisted by innumerable fallen angels and demons.
 - ✦ Though Satan is neither omnipresent nor omniscient, he is in touch with the entire world through these wicked spirits.
 - ✦ Fallen angels attempt to thwart God's plans, even in the sending of a ministering angel (Dan 10:13).
 - ✦ Demons possess unbelievers causing them to be violent (Matt 8:28; Mark 5:1-5), mute (Matt 9:32), blind (Matt 12:22), paralyzed and lame (Acts 8:7) and convulsive (Mark 9:17-26).
 - ✦ Although the indwelling of the Holy Spirit prohibits possession of believers (2 Cor 6:15-16), demons nonetheless exert their influence upon believers (Eph 6:12; 1 Tim 4:1-3).
- The Fall of Satan
 - Satan was created as a magnificent angel (Ezek 28:12-15a).
 - ✦ He was created perfect, wise and beautiful (Ezek 28:12-13).
 - ✦ He was anointed as a guardian cherub (Ezek 28:14a, 16b)
 - ✦ He was placed by God on His holy mountain (Ezek 28:14b).
 - ✦ He was created in righteousness (Ezek 28:15a).

- Satan saw that he was a creature of beauty and splendor and his heart was lifted up in pride (Ezek 28:17a).
- Satan's arrogance resulted in a "declaration of independence" from God (Isa 14:13-14).
- Satan's pride led to a precipitous fall (Ezek 28:15b-19).
 - ✦ Unrighteousness was found in him (Ezek 28:15b).
 - ✦ He was full with violence and sinned (Ezek 28:16a)
 - ✦ He "corrupted" his wisdom (Ezek 28:17a).
 - ✦ His initial sin led to many others (Ezek 28:18a).
 - ✦ His unrighteous "trade" profaned his sanctuaries (Ezek 28:18a).
 - ✦ He was cast down as profane from God's holy mountain to the earth (Ezek 28:16b, 17b; Isa 14:12).
 - ✦ He was made to be a spectacle (Ezek 28:16c, 17c, 18b, 19a).
 - ✦ He was promised ultimate destruction (Ezek 19b).
- The Work of Satan
 - Satan's activities after his fall are guided by his supreme motive, "I will make myself like the Most High." (Isa 14:14).
 - ✦ He propagated this lie to Adam and Eve by telling them that eating from the tree would make them be like God (Gen 3:5).
 - ✦ His desire to be worshipped like God was evident in his request that Christ bow down before him (Luke 4:5-7).
 - ✦ Satan attempts to counterfeit the things of God.
 - He promotes his own religious systems (2 Cor 11:13-15), many of which incorporate elements of the Christian faith, but omit salvation by grace alone on the basis of the shed blood of Christ.
 - He has a "son" who displays himself as being God (2 Th 2:3-4).
 - Satan does all in his power to keep people from getting saved.
 - ✦ He veils the gospel, blinding the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel (2 Cor 4:3-4).
 - ✦ He is the spirit at work in the children of disobedience (Eph 2:2).
 - ✦ He has power over the κόσμος system (1 John 5:19) and uses it to keep people at enmity with God (James 4:4).
 - Satan opposes those who are children of God.
 - ✦ He is the tempter of men (1 Cor 7:5; 1 Thess 3:5).
 - ✦ He draws our minds away from God's interests (Mark 8:33), but this may not be into immorality – it may be to things which are on the surface "good" things, but will hinder our spiritual growth.
- The Destiny of Satan
 - Even though Satan continues in his "career" work of opposing God and His children, Satan's destiny is certain.

- There are five judgments of Satan mentioned in the Bible.
 - ✦ Satan's moral fall, with its necessary separation from God, caused Satan to be driven from heaven (Ezek 28:16-17), although he still has access to God in the court room of heaven (Rev 12:10).
 - ✦ A perfect judgment of Satan has been secured through the Cross of Christ (John 12:31; 16:11; Col 2:14-15) as predicted in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:15), but the final execution of that judgment will be fulfilled in the future.
 - ✦ During the Tribulation, Satan will be completely banned from any and all access to heaven and will be limited to earth where he will be permitted to thrash out in great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time to continue (Rev 12:7-12).
 - ✦ Satan will be confined to the abyss during the millennial reign of Christ (Rev 20:1-3), but will be released for a short time when the 1000 years are completed (Rev 20:3, 7).
 - ✦ Satan's final doom will come at the end of the millennium when he is cast into the lake of fire and will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev 20:10).
- Questions
 - What evidence supports the conclusion that Satan exists as a person and is much more than simply an evil principle or influence?
 - What qualities did Satan possess before he fell?
 - What place did Satan originally have in God's creation?
 - Illustrate that Satan exercises the function of a person from his dealings with Adam and Eve, Job and Christ.
 - How is the personality of Satan revealed in his conflict with Christians?
 - What is wrong with the teaching that Satan directly causes sin in every person?
 - What is revealed in Isaiah 14 concerning Satan's original purpose in rebelling against God?

- How did Satan's original purpose govern the temptation of Adam and Eve?
- How did Satan's original purpose relate to his desire to be worshipped by Christ?
- What (in general) is Satan doing to those who are unsaved?
- How do fallen angels and demons aid Satan?
- What is the difference between a fallen angel and a demon?
- Describe the extent of the demonic influence on men and to what extent man can be controlled by demons.
- What difference is there between the power and influence of demons over unsaved people as contrasted with those who are saved?
- How are demons related to physical and mental disorders in men?
- How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit aid a Christian in his conflict with Satan, fallen angels and demons?
- To what extent does Satan counterfeit the things of God?
- What is Satan's objective in attacking a child of God?
- Describe the five judgments of Satan.