

Angelic Conflict

Conflict Ahead

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with the freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God's adversary, and led a portion of the angels into rebellion. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the worldwide flood. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. All of us are caught up in a spiritual battle that rages on. In *Ephesians 6:12* the Bible says: *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Satan's Nature

Satan's existence is very real, and his purpose is to deceive, distort and destroy the hope of man from being reconciled to God.

Seldom are we conscious of the clever attempts he constantly makes to overhaul our souls and make us conform to his purpose.



Traces of his work are always to be found in our lives. None is so strong that this

evil being, can and will attack you in every area of your life. No one is so insignificant that Satan cannot find a niche where a man can be of service to him.

The title prince has been applied to this diabolic creature. Jesus called him the prince of this world (***John 12:31; 14:30***). Once he described him as being a murderer who knew no truth and said that he was, in fact, a liar, and the father of lies (***8:44***). Paul also called him a prince (***Ephesians 2:2***), and the Pharisees found that this title suited their purposes in describing him (***Matthew 12:24***).

We are in a spiritual war, whether we like it or not. There are no by standers in this spiritual warfare. You are either fighting for or against God as clearly stated by our Lord in ***Matthew 12:30*** - "*He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.* And ***Luke 11:23*** - "*He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.*

We are not in a physical struggle against Satan and his fallen companions, but in a fight for what is true, what, what is real, and what is right. We are in a spiritual warfare that has everything to do with what we think, what we decide, and what we do.

The phrase "blood and flesh" refers to other human's beings, because angels don't have either blood or flesh. ***1 Corinthians 15:40*** - There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another.

Our fight, struggle, warfare is not against other men, but against the unseen forces of evil, who are doing everything they can to create anger, hatred, malice, revenge, greed, prejudice, religion, and so many other evil things in the world.

The Bible teaches us that angels exist (***Psalm 8:4, 5, 148:1–8 Hebrews 2:6–7; 2 Peter 2:12***). Almost every ancient and modern religion teaches something about angels. Angels are mentioned specifically nearly 300 times in the Old and New Testaments. There are a number of additional passages where angels are spoken of as *spirits, lights, cherubs, stars, demons, a cloud of witnesses, etc.*

Furthermore, it is made clear, even in the New Testament, that we are involved in an invisible conflict, an unseen war.

Two Groups of Angels

There are two groups of angels: the elect or holy angels and the fallen angels (Matthew 25:31, 41 Acts 10:22; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 14:10).

Angels are divided into two categories:

1. Unfallen: Holy & Elect: 1 Timothy 5:21; Mark 8:38
2. Fallen: Headed by Satan
 - a. Operational (demons): *1 Timothy 4:1*
 - b. Imprisoned: *2 Peter 2:4, those of Genesis 6*

Fallen angels, plus Satan, are sentenced to the Lake of Fire (*Matthew 25:41*). This sentence took place in the past.

Satan objected to the judgment and, in objecting, he charged the character of God. "How can a loving God cast His creatures into the Lake of Fire?" No specific scripture is worded in this way--rather a Scriptural deduction is made from many passages.

Satan's negative volition is the pattern for man's negative volition (*Isaiah 14:12-14*).

To resolve the Angelic Conflict, an inferior creature was placed on one planet, earth (*Hebrews 2*). Man's volition is tested under two systems:

1. Before the fall: In innocence, he was ignorant of sin, he had no sin nature. Man had volition.
2. After the fall: In sinfulness, he had an old sin nature, and volition (free will) and a new tree--the cross. Man could exercise positive volition-non-meritorious faith.

Man's faith in Christ resolves the Angelic Conflict. Issue: Will mankind (inferior to angels by birth) choose the work of Christ? If so, this resolves the Angelic Conflict (*Hebrews 1 & 2*).

Jesus Christ became a man through physical birth (virgin birth). By birth, Jesus Christ was lower than the angels. The humanity of Christ is now higher than the angels as He sits at the right hand of God. In Christ, we are positionally at the right hand of God. Therefore, we are positionally higher than angels and we have a servant--a guardian angel (*Hebrews 1:4-14*).

Mankind is under angelic observation. The angels learn divine judgment of God by watching the human race (*Luke 15:7, 10; Ephesians 3:10, 1 Timothy 5:21; 1 Peter 1:12, 1 Corinthians 4:9, 6:3; 11:10*).

Through the fall of man, Satan gained control of this planet. Faith in Jesus Christ frees man from Satan's domination (*2 Corinthians 4:4, John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Ephesians 2:2*).

There are various types of angels:

- A. Cherubim (highest and most intelligent): *Gen. 3:24, Exodus 25, Isaiah 37:16, Ezekiel 1:28*
- B. Seraphim: *Isaiah 6:2*
- C. Evangelizing: *Revelation 14:6*
- D. Teaching: *Acts 7, Galatians 3, Psalm 63, Deuteronomy 33, Zechariah 1:9, 11.*
- E. Ruling: *Revelation 4-5*
- F. Guardian: *Hebrews 1:14*
- G. Abyss: *Revelation 9:1*
- H. Fire: *Revelation 14:18*
- I. Water: *Revelation. 16:5*
- J. Watcher: *Daniel 4:13, 17, 23*

Angels have names, apparent nationalities, races, and different ministries. There are also distinctions between angels - some are more powerful, more intelligent, more beautiful, and more musical than others. There are hundreds of passages dealing with the category of angels in the Bible.

There are some obvious differences between man and angels: man can procreate, angels cannot (at least amongst themselves). The human race was begun with two people, both created and made directly by God and we have expanded our numbers through procreation; angels were all instantaneously created by God. They do not procreate; their numbers do not increase or decrease (*Ezekiel 28:15; Matthew 22:30; Colossians 1:16*).

There are times when angels enter into human history and in a variety of ways. Satan either takes on the form of a serpent or indwells a serpent (***Genesis 3***).

Angels take on human-like bodies and are capable of procreation in conjunction with human wives (there is no opposite arrangement; that is, there are no human males copulating with female angels). Apart from this incident, angels do not marry nor are they given in marriage which suggests that angels are all of one gender (male) (***Genesis 6; Matthew 22:30***).

Fallen angels (demons) indwelt various people during the time of Christ, having at least partial control of their bodies. Often there were many demons controlling one body. This concentrated activity of demon possession appears to have been most apparent during the incarnation of Jesus Christ (***Matthew 4:24; 8:16, 28; John 13:27***). We do not find demonic possession as a recurrent theme in the book of Acts nor as a topic of extended discussion in any of the epistles).

Angels influence us today with their corrupt thinking, called doctrines (or, *teachings*) of demons (***First Timothy 4:1***).

The most beautiful angel to come from the hand of God is Lucifer, son of the morning. Although Satan is found first in the Bible in ***Genesis 3***, he obviously had to exist prior to that time. He is spoken of in ***Isaiah 14:12–17***: “*How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God [angelic creation] I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?’*”

One of the fascinating things about the Old Testament is that a passage will be speaking of one thing (here, one of the kings of Babylon) and then it will morph into speaking about something else, a parallel situation or person (in this case, Satan). What we learn from this passage is all about Satan’s sin. It is amazing to think that he thinks he could be like the Most High (i.e., equal to God) and for that He has been judged and will be brought down to Sheol. Quite obviously, the caricature of Satan with horns, a trident, a long-forked tail and red epidermis has no basis in fact.

The Author of Evil

Satan is an angelic personality would you believe...). He is one of the most beautiful of creatures. He has no red skin or horns, no trident (pitchfork), and he does not breathe fire and brimstone. In fact, fire and brimstone make him shudder, because he is condemned to the Lake of Fire mentioned in *Matthew 25:41*. Satan is more intelligent than any human. His name, Lucifer, means "great shining light", or "Son of the Morning".

Satan Would Look More Like This!



Than This!



Isaiah 14:12-16

If *Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14* are to be interpreted accurately, we need to distinguish between the two different viewpoints of the human authors.

While the Lord's words are recorded as having been accomplished already, Ezekiel stands on the threshold of angelic history and goes down to the end of Satan's career. Whereas, Isaiah stood at the end of history and recorded what already transpired. The fact that Isaiah looked backwards from the end of time accounts for the opening sentences of his prophecy in v. 12, which presumes that Satan has already fallen from heaven and has been confined to planet earth.

Isaiah 14:12-16 (NASB77)

¹12 "How you have ²fallen from heaven, O ³star of the morning, ⁴son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have ⁵weakened the nations!

1. **Verse 12:** Here we have the Lord Jesus Christ speaking to Satan because of his attempt to take over heaven.
2. **“fallen”:** Satan's defeat. Satan's second fall – his physical fall at the midpoint of the tribulation when he is cast down to earth permanently. He can't leave earth. His days of arguing cases before the Supreme Court of Heaven are over.
3. **“star of the morning”:** Hebrews – “*heylel*” the shining one. Lucifer means light bearer. Morning Star was Satan's name prior to his fall and angels were created out of the light of God. *1 John 1:5; Job 38:7; Isaiah 14:12*
4. **“son of the dawn”:** Was his majestic title when he was created. In speaking to Job, the Lord confirmed that angels pre-existed creation because they were right there to observe the work of God. Created from the light of God.

5. “*weakened the nations*”: He has the greatest mind (*1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5*). God said nations are to be separated. Satan unites them politically and religiously.

¹³₁ “*But you said* ₂*in your heart,* ₃*I will ascend to heaven;* ₄*I will raise my throne above the stars of God,* ₅*And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses* ₆*of the north.*”

1. “*But you said*”: The result is that when Satan became unwilling to rule the original earth as a subordinate, and determined to rule it independent of God, he set his own will in opposition to the will of God. To justify himself, and to appeal his sentence of eternal condemnation to the Lake of Fire, he accused God. In accusing God, he became “*diabolos*” (Greek), “*shatan*” (Hebrew) which means accuser, a slanderer.
2. “*in your heart*”: thought – attitude of arrogance. The universe was created as the domain of the angels. Here they ruled and performed whatever task and responsibilities God gave them. It was during this time that Lucifer rebelled against God and enticed 1/3 of the angels to follow. (Revolt centered on earth) *Genesis 1:1. Genesis 1:2* brought in the chaos.
3. “*I*”: the first (1st) I will. “*will ascend to heaven*”: take over the 3rd heaven (power lust) to replace God as ruler.
4. “*I*”: the second (2nd) I will. “*will raise my throne above the stars*”: Angels - ruler over all angels. *Revelation 12:4. Revelation 2:13* mentions Satan’s throne in Pergamum (one of the centers of idolatry in Asia Minor). An earthly throne, not the heavenly one he was looking for.
5. “*and I*”: the third (3rd) I will. “*will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses*”: Government; Authority over.
6. “*of the north*”: his desire to rule earth.

¹⁴₁ *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;* ₂*I will* ₄*make myself* ₃*like* the ₄*Most High.*’

1. **“I”**: the fourth (4th) I will. **“heights of the clouds”**: Out of a least 150 Scriptural references to clouds, 100 of these speak of Divine presence and glory. Indicates his obsession to supplant God as sovereign ruler of the universe. He wants honor and glory that only goes to God! He has neither the character, power, nor ability to achieve his objective.
2. **“I”**: the fifth (5th) I will. **“make myself”**: through my own power, my beauty and my ingenuity.
3. **“like”**: I will put myself on a par with you when you approach the word in the power of human intellect. You wind up rejecting it because the one and only way which God designated it to be understood is by faith.
4. **“Most High”**: I’ll be supreme; I’ll be god (possessor of heaven and earth).

The most fundamental characteristic of sin is the unwillingness of the creature to abide in the position he has been placed by the creator, to remain faithful and steadfast to the plan of God for his life!

¹⁵ *“Nevertheless you will be thrust down to **Sheol**, To the recesses of the pit.*

1. **Sheol**: bottomless pit. Third (3rd) fall. Isaiah predicted a day when the Lord would punish Satan as well as the evil kings of the earth who stand in opposition to the plan of God, by confining them to prison.

¹⁶ *“Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is **this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms**, (in the seven-year tribulation period) but in comparison to God. He (Satan) is nothing!*

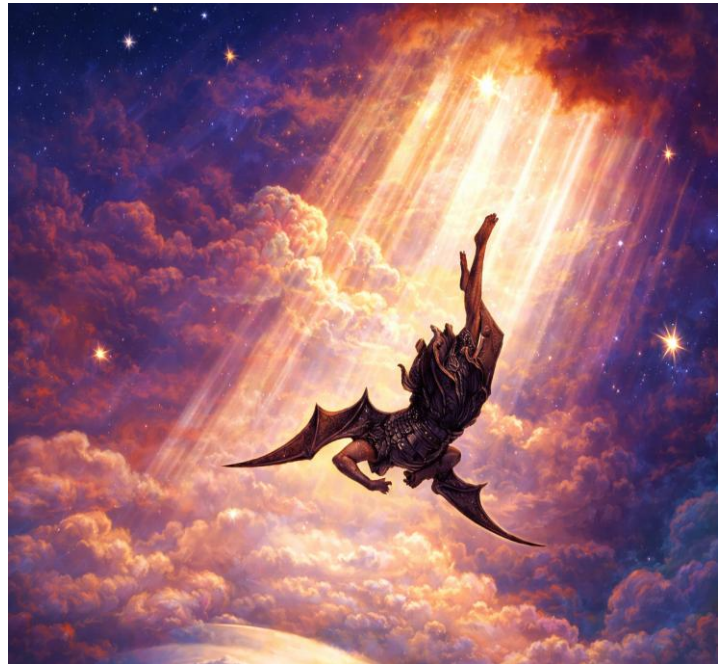
The Five “I Wills” of Satan – from Isaiah 14:12-17

1. “I will ascend into heaven” – a reference to the throne room of God. Satan wanted to take over God’s place.
2. “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.” Satan wanted to rule angels (*Job 38:7; Jude 13; Revelation 12:3-4*).
3. “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north.” Satan wanted to rule over the Earth (*Psalms 48:2*).
4. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.” Or, “I will be supreme.” He desired to displace God as the Sovereign of the Universe.
5. “I will be like the Most High.” Satan’s power lust: “I will be God.”

Satan is called the “father of lies”, *John 8:44*. He is called a murderer, *1 John 3:8*. He is the highest authority in the cosmos, *Ephesians 2:2*. Even Michael the archangel is no match for Satan.

Satan's Three Falls

1. Satan's first fall was at the point of negative volition toward the sovereignty of God, during the five "I Will's"; (*Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28:15*).
2. Satan's second fall will occur at the middle of the Tribulation when he is denied access to Heaven (*Revelation 12:9; Ezekiel 28:15*).
3. At the end of the millennial reign of Christ, Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire. This will be his final fall (*Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10; Ezekiel 28:18*).



Spiritual darkness was the result of Satan's rebellion and fall (*1 John 3:8; 2 Peter 2:4*). It was extended to the earth (*Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 14:12*). Later it was extended to fallen human race (*Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 2:9*). Satan led 1/3 of the angels in revolt against the Plan of God in the third heaven (*Revelation 12:9; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:17; 1 Timothy 3:6-7; 5:15; Matthew 12:24; Ezekiel 28:16-17; 1 John 3:8*). This angelic revolt resulted in two categories of angels: **fallen and holy**.

Today, the fallen angels are a highly organized army under Satan. Fallen angels, called demons trembled in presence of Jesus Christ (*Matthew 8:28-30*). They are engaged in spiritual warfare against the Plan of God, the human race, the four Divine Institutions and the Church (*Ephesians 2:1-3; 6:11-17; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Matthew 13:19, 38-39; 1 Timothy 4:1, 16:2; 2 Timothy 4:7-8*). This is why we refer to this spiritual warfare as the *Angelic Conflict* (A/C).

God created the earth to be inhabited by the human race (*Psalms 115:16*) and to resolve the *Angelic Conflict* (*Genesis 3; Ezekiel 28:17; Revelation 12:7; Ephesians 6:1-7*). Therefore, the human race was created in the image and likeness of God but a little lower than the angels (*Genesis 1:26; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9; Hebrews 2:6-11; Psalm 8:4-6*).

Whenever the *holy angels observe human volition* choosing grace salvation, they rejoice in heaven (***Luke 15:7, 10; 1 Corinthians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 4:9; 1 Timothy 5:21; 1 Peter 1:10-12***). Volition is the common denominator between angels and mankind. It makes angels and humans free agents to choose or reject God's grace plan. Volition is tested in the human race the same as angels in regard to grace salvation with the same consequences of rejection (***Revelation 20:10, 14-15; John 3:16-18; Romans 8:38-39***).

The fall of Adam showed the *Angelic Conflict* extended to the volition of mankind (***Genesis 2:17; 3:1; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:14; Matthew 6:11; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 4:27; 1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7***). Satan gained ruler-ship of the world with the fall of Adam (***John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4***). Because of the fall of Adam, every member of the human race is physically born under judicial penalty of Adam's Original Sin (AOS) (***Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:22***) and in the *dominion of darkness* (***Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 5:8***).

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ removes every believer from the judicial penalty of AOS (Adam's Original Sin) at the moment of salvation (***Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 John 3:5, 8; Romans 2:19; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:16***).

Whenever a member of the human race believes the gospel of grace salvation, that *believer is placed IN Christ. A position superior to all angels* (***2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 1:1-14; 1 Corinthians 6:3; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6; Ephesians 5:8-14***).

SATAN - THE RULER OF THIS WORLD

Luke 4:5-7; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 - 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2

As the ruler of this world, Satan has a strategy regarding the nations. In basic terms, Satan's desire is to neutralize the Divine Institutions by means of the destruction of nations. Therefore, Satan is anti-nationalistic and pro-United Nations, pro-World Council of Churches, and pro-Communist (***Revelation 12:9; 20:3, 8***).



Bible truth is Satan's greatest enemy and is the source of the most powerful attack on his *kosmos*. Therefore, Satan has designed revolution to neutralize nationalism which is protective of the Word of God.

SATAN'S STRATEGY WITH UNBELIEVERS

Every human being is born spiritually dead, hence is born as a member of the kingdom of Satan. Satan has a strategy regarding every person to keep that person from accepting Jesus Christ as Savior. He tries to blind unbelievers to the Gospel (*2 Corinthians 4:3, 4; Luke 8:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10*).

The unbeliever is made blind to gospel information because the unbeliever is distracted by Satan and by exercising negative volition toward the Word of God. While Satan does not force anyone to be lost, he uses every means to steer the unbeliever away from the truth. His ultimate weapons in this are religion and humanism. He tries to promote the glorification and deification of mankind while downgrading God Himself (*Genesis 3:5; Colossians 2:8*).

SATAN'S STRATEGY WITH BELIEVERS

Satan doesn't give up when a person accepts Christ as Savior. He has a strategy regarding believers which is very subtle and far-reaching.

Satan accuses believers before God. The sins of the Christian are observed by the fallen angels and reported. In effect, a dossier is being kept on each believer. He does this to try to hinder the work of God on earth. However, *1 John 2:1ff* points out that Jesus Christ is our Advocate with the Father; and the Lord reminds (not that He has forgotten) the Father of what happened at the Cross and makes note of the believer's faith and position in Christ (*Revelation 12:9, 10; Zechariah 3:1, 2; Job 1:6-11; 2 Corinthians 2:11*).

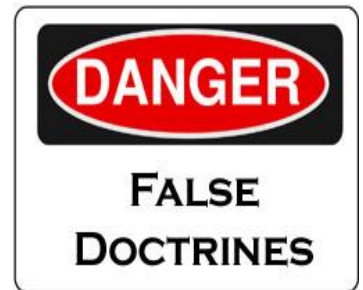
Satan tries to keep the believer from the Word of God. He encourages Christians to ignore the Word and accept false teaching so that they will revert to their former manner of life (*1 Timothy 4:1; 1 Corinthians 10:19-21; 2 Corinthians 11:3, 13-15; 2 Chronicles 21:1*).

Satan distracts believers by trying to keep them from public assembly worship (**Hebrews 10:25**). He tempts the believer with an improper emphasis on details of life such as money, success, social life, pleasure, loved ones, health, sex, materialistic things, or status symbols. The mature believer knows that his happiness is not derived from these things, so he is not a slave to them. The novice Christian, however, may try to gain happiness from such things, and this will distract him from the Word of God.

FALSE TEACHING IS A PART OF SATAN'S STRATEGY

Some of the characteristics of false teachers:

- They have a false facade. **Matthew 7:15; Romans 16:18**
- They court believers. **Galatians 4:17, 18; 2 Timothy 3:5, 7**
- They appeal to human pride. **2 Corinthians 10:12**
- They promote idolatry because it is a quick way to demon influence. **Hab. 2:18**
- They promote legalism. **1 Timothy 1:7, 8**
- The false teachers will continue to operate throughout Satan's rule on earth. **1 John 4:1**



Satan seeks to frustrate the will of God for the believer. There are three categories of the will of God which Satan tries to interdict.

- The *operational will* of God (what God wants us to do). **James 4:7, 8; Galatians 5:7**
- The *mental, or intellectual, will* of God (what God wants us to think). **1 Timothy 4:1**
- The *geographical will* of God (where God wants us to be). **1 Thessalonians 2:18**

Satan encourages believers to worry. Worry neutralizes the soul of the believer. He tries to frighten Christians with regard to physical death. **1 Peter 5:7-9; Hebrews 2:14, 15**

Satan attempts to change the focus of the believer. Instead of Occupation with Christ, Satan wants the Christian to be occupied with:

SELF: (*Colossians 3:1; 1 Corinthians 1:10, 11; Genesis 3:4, 5; Matthew 26:31-35*)

THINGS: (*Hebrews 13:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 1:10, 11*)

PEOPLE: (*Jeremiah 17:5; 1 Kings 19:10; Jeremiah 17:4*)



One of the functions of the Faith-Rest principle is to protect the Christian in the area of having a proper focus on life. Emotionalism can lead to great distractions for Christians; so, Satan puts on a big campaign to control people's emotions. While the emotion is a bona fide function of the soul, whenever emotion takes precedence over Bible truth, it leads to distraction. Those who dabble in ecstatic experiences, public or private, are allowing their feelings and emotions to outweigh doctrine. Under circumstances of edification and spiritual growth, emotion is a tremendous generator of happiness. But emotion has no spiritual meaning or connotation; and emotion cannot be used as a criterion of spiritual condition.

Satan also promotes heavily in the area of mental attitude sins such as fear, worry, bitterness, desires for revenge, pride, guilt feelings, lack of love, failure to forgive, hatred, mental adultery, and so forth. A believer is neutralized by sin; and mental attitude sins are behind all sin. And they are the worst category because they are so devastating. As long as mental attitude sin is taking place, the Word of God is being ignored.

One of Satan's main weapons is religion. The basic aim of religion is to counterfeit what God is doing.

There are several religious counterfeits mentioned in the Bible:

- Counterfeit gospel: *2 Corinthians 11:3, 4*
- Counterfeit ministers (unsaved, humanists, misled, etc.): *2 Cor. 11:13-15*
- Counterfeit doctrine: *2 Timothy 4:1*
- Counterfeit communion table: *1 Corinthians 10:19-21*
- Counterfeit righteousness: *Matthew 19:16-18*
- Counterfeit manner of life ("living the beautiful life"): *Matthew 23*
- Counterfeit power: *2 Thessalonians 2:8-10*
- Counterfeit gods: *2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4*

The Bible talks about the Armor of God as enabling the believer to "*stand against the wiles of the devil*". This armor is protection for us while we live in *kosmos diabolikos*, and the weapons of our warfare are stronger than Satan as we take our stand in the Lord Jesus Christ.

SATAN'S APPROACH IS DIFFERENT IN EACH DISPENSATION

1. Adam and Eve: Satan observed the man and the woman, and not being content to leave well enough alone, interfered, causing the woman to sin by deceiving her, and the man to sin knowingly because the woman he loved had sinned.
2. Satan's Strategy in the Age of Israel: When God called Abraham, and promised to preserve his line and to make a great nation of him. Satan began to attack the line of Abraham as well as the nation Israel.
3. Satan's strategy in the Age of the Gentiles: When God promised a Savior (first to Adam and Eve and later to other believers), Satan's focus was on this Savior and destroying the line of the Savior. The killing of Abel was probably the first satanic attack against the line of the Messiah (Satan possibly assumed that Abel was the One promised by God).

Ezekiel 28:1-2; 28:11-18

This scripture gives a portrait of Satan and his personality.

Ezekiel 28:1-2 ¹*The word of the LORD came again to me saying,*

The immediate context of Ezekiel's prophecy is a record of divine judgments against Israel's enemies and according to **1 Chronicles 21:1**. Satan definitely belongs to that group.

²*"Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,*

"Because your heart is lifted up And you have said, ' I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the heart of the seas'; Yet you are a man and not God, Although you make your heart like the heart of God—

1. ***“to me”***: Ezekiel
2. ***“leader of Tyre”***: Human ruler, Prince of Tyre

Isaiah 28:11-18 (NASB77) ¹¹*Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,*

1. ***“To me”***: Ezekiel

¹² ¹*"Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

1. ***“Son of man”***: Ezekiel
2. ***“up a lamentation”***: A funeral dirge (grief).
3. ***“king of Tyre”***: Satan – why? They cannot be applied to other human rulers. We have a shift from Prince in vs. 2 to ultimate authority.

"You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty”:

Now he runs through a comprehensive breakdown of our adversary.

3. “**seal of perfection**”: Has finished proportions - perfect proportions. Here is a flawless balance between wisdom on one hand and beauty on the other. The Greeks called this the “golden mean” i.e., from the hand of God. Satan was the greatest in beauty and authority.

5. “**Full of wisdom**”: Means that he is the most brilliant of all created beings. He is superior in knowledge. He is an organizational genius with a great array of Demons (**Ephesians 6:10-12**). He is the enemy of Bible Doctrine, the church, Israel and most of all, the Lord Jesus Christ (**Revelation 12:1-6**).

6. “**perfect in beauty**”: Most beautiful; has personality and persuasiveness – He is invisible to us (now). Satan’s outward appearance still has not changed. Arrogance begins with a thought, then the decision and finally the action of arrogance.

¹³ *"You were ¹in Eden, ²the garden of God; ³Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, ⁵the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared.*

1. “**in Eden**”: This is not the Garden of Eden in **Genesis 2:3** (earth), but the throne room of God. He lived in a perfect environment. He had everything people ordinarily think would give them happiness **AND YET**, he wanted more!!

2. “**the garden**”: Where God dwelled.

3. “**Every precious stone**”: This dazzling array of jewels suggests his initial rank and importance in the plan of God, as well as the beauty of his appearance. He must have shown himself to Eve in this way through the serpent for the Hebrew masculine noun “*nachash*” (serpent) means literally “the shining one”.

Nachash is a word, named after the hisses of the serpent (**2 Corinthians 11:14**).

These precious stones are found three (3) times in scripture.

- a. The High Priest's breastplate, as a manifestation of the grace of God.
- b. The 12 foundation stones of the New Jerusalem, which reflects the glory of God.
- c. Satan – which signifies that he was the highest in creation; he was created to reflect and retract the glory of God for all creation to behold.

4. “*the workmanship of your settings and sockets*”: refers to the fact that he did not need an instrument to praise God. He was able to give perfect praise (vocal cords).

¹¹⁴ "You were the ²*anointed cherub* who ³*covers*, And I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You ⁴*walked in the midst of the stones of fire*.

1. **Verse 14**: His ministry; his designated responsibilities.
2. “*anointed cherub*”: Messiah's angel (appointed one); set apart one.
3. “*covers*”: Means block off, screen, and stop the approach.
4. “*walked in the midst of the stones of fire*”: Refers to his time on earth; authority over other angels.

¹⁵ "You were ¹*blameless* in your ways From the day you were created, Until ²*unrighteousness* was ³*found in you*.

1. “*blameless*”: Perfect. Comes from the Hebrew “*tamiym*” sound, complete, having integrity. *Tamiym* is used for both Noah and Job as mature believers. When characterizing someone, it means there is nothing in either his overt actions or internal attitudes that is offensive to God.
2. “*unrighteousness*”: Given freewill, he chose to reject the plan of God. The Word “unrighteousness” speaks of violent deeds of injustice.

(But) before Lucifer ever committed an overt sin, omniscient God had uncovered his mental sin.

3. “***found in you***”: Discovered by omniscience of God.

¹⁶ "By the abundance ¹of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And² you sinned; ³Therefore I have cast you as profane From ⁴the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, ⁵O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.

1. “***of your trade***”: It is an idiom for prosperity. As the highest ranking angel in the universe, Satan had everything he could ever want, and yet he failed the prosperity test. Refers to his plan for angels – like any conspirator, they promise things they cannot deliver. “Trade” means to go about in order to destroy someone’s reputation through gossip and slander. Why? He wants the angels to worship him. He had to slander God (His character) to stir up insurrection against God (to secure their allegiance to his game plan of rebellion against the will of God).
2. “***you sinned***”: Arrogance. Pride. His negative volition led to power lust and power lust leads to violence.
3. “***Therefore I have cast you as profane***”: Comes from one word in the Hebrew, which means dishonor.
4. “***the mountain of God***”: The Throne Room.
5. “***O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire***”: I will dishonor this mighty angel, take all his glory and then plunge him to his ultimate destruction in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).

¹⁷ "1 *Your heart* was 2*lifted up* 3*because of your beauty*; 4*You corrupted* 5*your wisdom* 6*by reason of your* 7*splendor*. I 8*cast you to the ground*; I put you before kings, That 9*they may see you*.

1. “*Your heart*”: Seat of thinking, wisdom and insight. Also, the place of volition where decisions are made.
2. “*lifted up*”: In arrogance and pride.
3. “*because of your beauty*”: An overpowering pre-occupation with self.
4. “*You corrupted*”: Spoiled; perverted.
5. “*your wisdom*”: Divine thinking.
6. “*by reason*”: Because of arrogance and pride. Arrogance is the first link in the chain of sin. It started with an attitude. This attitude led to a decision and that decision resulted in action – rebellion against the will of God.
7. “*splendor*”: Brightness/shining. He set aside *absolute truth* because of pride.
8. “*cast you to the ground*”: Fall of Satan – 2nd fall.
9. “*they may see you*”: Tribulation.

¹⁸ "By the multitude of 1*your iniquities*, In the unrighteousness of your trade, You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore, I have brought fire from the midst of you; It 2*has consumed you*, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all 3*who see you*.

1. “*your iniquities*”: Sins.
2. “*has consumed you*”: Judgment; Sentencing,
3. “*who see you*”: All the verses that teach who and what Satan has become – (sin) his judgment from God for his disobedience (rebellion and pride). God did not create Satan as Satan turned out.

GOD DID NOT CREATE SATAN AS SATAN

He created an angel who was “blameless”, perfect, who had integrity in all his ways. And that angel sinned by his arrogant opposition to the will of God. He chose evil over that which was divinely good. The one truth which is hammered home over and over here is the degenerating



power of sin. Satan, just like Adam and Eve who followed his path, became an entirely different being from the one whom God created.

He lost his original righteousness, that status of created perfection, and his awesome position as the “messianic cherub”, but he retains his superhuman wisdom. And he’s turned his exceptional abilities into pathways of evil and his brilliant mentality has been perverted to the level of “lies,” deceptions, snares for the ignorant and the apathetic—those who don’t know, and those who just don’t care.

1. Satan appears in the Bible with power, prominence, and importance second only to the Trinity itself.
2. He is mentioned in the Word of God as often as all the other angels combined. Satan is drawn into the story of human history from its first page to its last, from **Genesis 3 to Revelation 20**; he is always there, lurking in the background like a cobra waiting to strike.
3. No other creature in the universe is so closely and carefully analyzed concerning his motives, methods, character and purpose as this one.
4. Satan is the one being who “*deceives the entire world,*” (**Revelation 12:9**). There’s no greater evidence of this than that most of the world does not really believe he even exists. No doubt for him that it is an incredible advantage. Being uninformed and misinformed, man becomes an easy prey to the enemy of souls.
5. Satan and the angels have something equivalent to a human soul. Just like any other person in the Bible, every element of a soul is seen in Satan.

- a. Satan has a “*heart*,” which means a right lobe of the soul with capacity to think, and to make decisions based on that thinking (*Ezekiel 28:17; Isaiah 14:13*).
 - b. Satan has a mentality because that “*heart*” is said to be “full of wisdom” (*Ezekiel 28:12*).
 - c. Satan has self-consciousness inherent in the words, “*I will*”.
 - d. Satan has volition which is abundantly clear in the five “*I wills*”.
 - e. Satan has emotion because he obviously appreciated his own plan, otherwise, he never would have begun the Angelic Conflict.
 - f. Satan has a conscience of sorts, with norms and standards based on his own thinking, his own cosmic viewpoint.
6. The fall of Satan was not a ***compromise*** between good and evil. By his own action he became the embodiment of evil and completely devoid of good.
7. Satan is a living personification of deceit. Listen to what Jesus told the Jewish religious leaders of His day, “*You are of [your] father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murdered from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature] for he is a liar, and the father of lies,*” (*John 8:44*).

Revelation 12:9 declares him the deceiver of the whole world.

In ***Revelation 20:2-3***, it is prophesied that he will be cast into the abyss, shut up, and sealed, “*...so that he should not deceive the nations any longer...*”

When released from his prison, as it says in vv.7-8, he “*...will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth...to gather them together for the war...*”

We are told that Satan was in the garden of God and that he was created perfect until iniquity was found in him. Satan is called an angel of light, the god of this world and the ruler of this world (*John 14:30; 2 Corinthians 4:4 11:14*).

God created the Lake of Fire where Satan and his angels and men who do not believe in Jesus Christ will be cast. Jesus taught: “*Then He will also say to those on His left, Go away from Me, cursed ones, into the everlasting fire having been prepared for the Devil and his angels.*” (**Matthew 25:41**). Satan will be cast into everlasting fire because he has been judged. “*The ruler of this world has been judged.*” (**John 16:11b**). His being cast into the Lake of Fire is future: And the Devil leading them astray was thrown into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone (**Revelation 20:10a**).

WHY IS SATAN OUT AND ABOUT NOW?

From the judgment of Satan and his fallen angels to this point in time years have gone by. Satan sinned, he has been judged, and he will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. Therefore, we ought to ask, why has this not occurred yet? Why has God not carried out this sentence? Why is Satan out there loose in the world?

The use of the words *judgment* and *punishment* in conjunction with Satan suggest a trial. Satan’s sentence is now under appeal. This is based upon several Scriptures. In **Job 1–2**, Satan and the angels are assembled before God and Satan is raising objections to the way things are. He claims that Job is dedicated to God only because of the many blessings which God has given him. Remove these blessings, Satan alleges, and Job will curse God. The book of Job is God showing Satan (and the angels who are observing) that Satan is wrong. Satan is said to accuse believers before God day and night (**Revelation 12:20**)

THE BASIS OF SATAN’S APPEAL

How can a loving God cast any of His creatures into a Lake of Fire?

Satan to God: “*God, You made me this way. I am not responsible for Your creation.*” God is at fault for not making a perfect creation. If Satan is imperfect, then it must mean that God is imperfect.

Satan’s sin is originally one of pride, was discovered by God—how can a hidden sin like this deserve eternal death? How is this just? Can’t a God of love forgive His creatures?

Let's accept the premise that Satan and the fallen angels have sinned. Why not just give Satan a little space in the universe and let him and the other fallen angels hang out there? Elect angels have chosen this path simply because God rewards them for their choice. Essentially, Satan's objections call into question God's actions in comparison to His character and essence. God has to be consistent, as He is immutable. God is righteous and just, so His judgment has to be righteous and just. God is love, so His actions should reflect His love.

There are inherent contradictions in God's character (creating beings which will suffer forever in the Lake of Fire does not demonstrate love or righteousness). Therefore, the inherent defects in Satan's character cannot be judged by someone with inherent defects. In other words, if Satan is imperfect, then God is imperfect. God is unable to demonstrate perfect character in all respects at all times (that is the argument of Satan).

Right and wrong are relative concepts; there really is no such thing as absolute standards of right and wrong. The acts of Satan and those angels who fell are not inherently wrong, because there is no such thing as inherent wrong. Right and wrong, good and bad, are simply arbitrary standards set up by God. God is incapable of creating creatures with free will who will not, at some point in time, disobey Him.

Finally, Satan, in a sense, alleges, *"I could do a better job than God with this earth and with His creatures."* He said, *"I will be like the Most High."* (**Isaiah 14:14b**). If you know much about the Bible, you know that each of these objections is addressed in the Bible in conjunction with human history being played out.

Whatever objection you have ever formed in your mind against God, God's plan or God's grace, God will deal with that objection in time. Whatever objections unbelievers lodge against God will also be dealt with in time. God's answering all of Satan's objections will simultaneously answer all of the objections of mankind throughout the ages.

The time frame of all of this is important. This helps us to understand our place in this world:

1. God created angels.
2. Satan fell and took a third of the angels with him (*Revelation 12:4*).
3. There was a trial of some sort.
4. Satan and the fallen angels were judged and sentenced (*Matthew 25:41*).
5. This sentence is not carried out immediately.
6. The implication is that Satan lodged an appeal.
7. Temporarily, the habitation of the angels (the earth) is frozen which possibly restrains the fallen angels.
8. The earth is restored; man is created.
9. Human history is played out.
10. Satan and the fallen angels are cast into the Lake of Fire (*Revelation 20:10*).
11. This implies that we lowly human beings are somehow involved between the fall and sentencing of Satan and the carrying out of the sentence against Satan. In other words, we apparently are involved in the appeal portion of the trial of Satan and the fallen angels.
12. This explains our place in this world. We were created inferior to angels but we have an essence similar to angels inasmuch as we can think, we have self-consciousness, we have a concept of right and wrong, we have a vocabulary, we have emotions, and we have volition. These are things which angels possess, and these things are a reflected image of God (*Hebrews 2:5–10; 12:1*).
13. By our creation and our lives on this earth, God reveals the nature of His character—His perfect love, justice and righteousness—in dealing with man (*Psalms 145:17; Isaiah 5:16; John 3:16*).

14. By our creation and our life in this world, God reveals the consistency of His character through His interaction with man—man as created perfect and man as a fallen creature. God will interact with man under a number of varying conditions, including perfect environment and far less than perfect environment. These interactions, observed by angels, will reveal that God is love, righteousness, justice, and that every single thing which God does is consistent with His character. All of the objections which I suggested, will be answered in human history.
15. By the function of Bible doctrine in our souls, God reveals the importance of truth which is embodied in the Bible that we have. God reveals the importance of His creatures knowing and adhering to His Word (*Proverbs 8; 1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5, 3:15, 4:7*).
16. God's judgments are revealed as being holy and righteous; His character is revealed as being perfect in all respects. Our function on this earth glorifies God (*John 11:4; 1 Corinthians 10:31*).
17. The simplest way for us to understand this is by our relationship to our own children. When they do wrong, we punish them, and sometimes the punishment is as difficult for us as them. However, ideally speaking, before, after or during the punishment, we explain to them what they have done wrong and why it is wrong. In this way, a child develops norms and standards; he develops a conscience; and he learns how to function in this world in such a way that is both moral and right and is beneficial to him and to those around him. This allows a child to build up an entire framework of norms and standards which will carry him through his entire life. Parents who do not do this are destroying the little souls of the children God has entrusted to them.
18. This is how God interacts with us, and helps to explain why, over and over again, believers are called His children. It explains why God disciplines us (*Hebrews 12:5–11*).
19. Men and angels, in this process, develop an understanding and an appreciation for Who and What God is and for the wonder of their own existence.
20. The Angelic Conflict explains a great many things to us.

Why We Exist!!

We resolve the *Angelic Conflict* and both glorify and vindicate God. His love and mercy toward His creatures are revealed in the cross, as is His righteousness and justice. Our daily interaction with God after the cross reaffirms God's character and essence.

Why is there sin? Sin is a result of our free will. Satan and a third of the angels chose to sin, and man chose to sin. There is the difference that we are born with a sin nature because Adam sinned; all fallen angels had to go from a sinless state to a fallen state.

Why God cannot overlook or tolerate sin. There is nothing more vicious than man's inhumanity to man. Whether this begins as a schoolyard taunt, a mean piece of gossip exchanged, or a radical religious movement which kills people in order to make a political statement; sin causes great pain and suffering. Sin is not something which people are willing to engage in on their own.

As an example, people claim that pornography is a victimless crime. However, people are kidnaped and enslaved even today in order to further the pornography (and sex-trade) industry. People are led toward drug-addiction in order to keep them involved in the sex trade. Marriages are destroyed and children's lives are ruined because of pornography. The results of any sin can be carried out to reveal how damaging that sin can be.

Why sin must be judged. There are few among us, when we observe man's cruelty to his fellow man, do not desire to see justice done. Even in a movie, when we are drawn into the evil of some of the characters, it is a great release to see these characters receive their comeuppance at the very end of the movie. No one watches a *Die Hard* movie and is disappointed that Bruce Willis prevails at the end of the movie. That is the satisfying resolution to good versus evil.

Why is there suffering? Men suffer as a result of sin. This is why God will remove sin completely from our lives in the future. This is also why He will create a new heaven and a new earth, completely separate from the stain of sin.

The *Angelic Conflict* is not a static event or series of events. Satanic strategy and satanic attacks change from dispensation to dispensation.

As an aside, I should point out that, if the Jews are removed from this earth, most of the prophecies found in the Bible become null and void; they cannot be fulfilled. Therefore, from the exodus to this very moment, Satan encourages anti-Semitism and does everything that he can to remove Jews from this earth.

God made a number of promises to Israel—the Abrahamic Covenant and the Davidic Covenant, to name two—and Satan has acted not only to keep these covenants from being fulfilled, but he also acts to cast doubt upon the fulfillment of these covenants. Many Jews today wonder about their relationship to God and the promises which He made to them. In the end times, Jews are going to rediscover books like Esther and passages like *Genesis 22*, *Psalms 89* and *Isaiah 53*, and suddenly their eyes will be opened, and they will understand what those passages are saying to them. I believe that this is where the 144,000 evangelists will spring from during the Tribulation.

Satan also inspires doubt in Gentiles, with respect to God's fulfillment of His covenants with Israel.

One of the results of this is known as Covenant Theology, where all the promises which God made to Israel are reinterpreted and spiritualized, and that the church is seen (falsely) as *spiritual Israel* and that God's covenants are transferred over, somehow, to Gentile believers in the Church Age. The idea is, the Jews just sinned too much, God decided that they were not His people, and He started up the church, which has been mostly a gentile organization (although Jews do believe). This is a false system of theology because it calls into question God's veracity, His immutability and His omniscience.

Is God really truthful? He made some very clear promises to Israel, and it is difficult to take God seriously when these promises are *spiritualized*. We are told that God does not change, but, if He just gave all his promises to Israel over to the church which requires these promises to be *spiritualized* in order for them to make sense, then He is not immutable. How can the Jews go so far as to fall outside of God's plan? Isn't an omniscient God able to know this is going to happen and to make provision for it?

Satan did everything that he could to destroy the nation Israel inspiring countless attacks against them. He had a hand in splitting up Israel into two nations (the northern and southern kingdoms), and a hand in removing Israel's sovereignty on several occasions.

This should help to explain not only the continual attacks of the surrounding nations against Israel, but it explains the holocaust and it explains the remarkable hatred of Islam for the Jew today.

Satan's direct attacks upon Jesus Christ (and, to a lesser extent, His disciples)

Here, we have one of the most amazing historical events, simply from the standpoint of strategy. Satan knew who the Messiah was, and Satan attacked Him in every way possible to prevent Him from going to the cross. Satan was able to exercise his considerable hatred toward Jesus throughout this process.

In the Church Age, the *Angelic Conflict* is intensified for the individual believer. The Messiah promised by God has come, died for our sins, and been resurrected. Therefore, Satan attacks man in general and believers specifically. Satanic strategy moves on two fronts: Satan tries to blind the unbeliever (**2 Corinthians 4:4**) from the gospel and tries to keep any person from believing in Jesus Christ. Religion plays as great a role in this as sin does.

Once a person believes in Jesus Christ, Satan does everything that he can to neutralize his spiritual impact. Satan again uses religion to neutralize the spiritual impact of individual believers. This is one reason there are so many Christian cults; this is the reason the Catholic Church has become so corrupt; this is the reason so few Protestant churches concentrate on the teaching of the Bible; this is the reason that so many churches lean toward social action and even toward liberation theology—these attacks keep a believer from growing and having any sort of spiritual impact. Quite obviously, Satan continues to use sin to keep man from growing spiritually (**1 Timothy 4:1**).

When the church is taken up (the rapture), there will be no one who believes in Jesus Christ left on the earth. There will be seven (7) more years of the Age of Israel to play out, called the Tribulation in the Bible. Satan will have more power at this time and he will seek to kill every person who believes in Jesus Christ. We know that, for instance, in the history of Communist nations, there will be a strong, charismatic leader who rises up to *liberate* his people and to offer them *hope*. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, he is killing every person who is against his *revolution for freedom*. The Beast will rise up in much the same way, adored by millions, if not billions, of people; who will, at the same time, engage in a vicious holy war against God's elect. This will be a double-intensification of the Angelic Conflict.

The Millennium will be marked by perfect environment, the knowledge of God throughout the earth, people being born with volition and sin natures, and Satan being locked up. However, Satan will be let out of confinement at the end of the Millennium, and he will again be given limited power, and he will lead some men against God—men who have enjoyed a thousand years of perfect environment (*Revelation 20:2–9*).

GENERAL STRATEGIES IN ALL DISPENSATIONS

Satan would do anything to make God a liar. So, he will continue to attack and attempt to eradicate the Jews. If there are no Jews in the end times, God cannot fulfill His plan. In order to make God a liar, Satan will do anything to show even one promise of the Bible to be wrong.

We all associate Satan with sin and evil, but Satan is heavily involved in *good* as well. Satan attempts to produce human good - which often deny the existence or importance of God. Socialism and Communism are clear examples of this, where man has tried to make men equal, which involves the eradication of religion, freedom and, in many cases, life.

In a lot of political campaigns, people are paraded in front of us, and their sad and difficult lives revealed, and who or what would solve this? The candidate who parades these people before us, he or she would be the solution to the ills of these people. The idea is, we ought to put our trust and hopes in a particular man or a particular form of government, rather than in God. If our lives are difficult, this has nothing to do with God nor does it have anything to do with us, but it is because the wrong man or the wrong party is in power in government. This is satanic strategy and it is all about *good*.

Satan would like to create a happy balanced world of people, animal life and nature. In this way, he could prove himself to be like the Most High. Satan is behind all international efforts and international control, because it is easier for him to direct and control human behavior if we are all subject to the same government. Satan would like to establish equality on this earth (not equality of opportunity, which creates inequities, but actual equality).

Satan would like to improve who and what man is, mentally and physically, and eliminate people who are substandard. Because of Satan's original sin, because all of his appeals will have been exhausted, God will toss him, the angels which fell and all unsaved men into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennium *Revelation 20:10–15*. Then God will create new heavens and a new earth, as the *Angelic Conflict* will have been resolved (*Revelation 21:1*).

Does Evil Exist? Did God Create Evil?

Did God create everything that exists? Does evil exist? Did God create evil?

A University professor at a well-known institution of higher learning challenged his students with this question. "Did God create everything that exists?" A student bravely replied, "Yes he did!"

"God created everything?" The professor asked.

"Yes sir, he certainly did," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything; then God created evil.

And, since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are, then we can assume God is evil."

The student became quiet and did not answer the professor's hypothetical definition. The professor, quite pleased with himself, boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "May I ask you a question, professor?"

"Of course", replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?"

"What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?"

The other students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 F) is the total absence of heat; and all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

The student continued, "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct?"

Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally, the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course, as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily examples of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil.

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

We can play all the games we want in our soul. The human viewpoint can rationalize anything.

But one day we will all meet our God and Creator.

God loved us so much, He sent His own Son out of heaven, to become a man and take the judgment for our sins.

We are all guilty before God, but His Son has taken our sins out of the way, and nailed them to the cross! *Colossians 2:14*

Now it is your choice to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, or not. He is the only One that paid for your sins. If you believe in Him, you will be justified in God's eyes, and you will receive the gift of eternal life.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
Acts 16:31

The Doctrine of Evil

1 Thessalonians 5:22, "Abstain from every form of Evil."

To obey this command, it is necessary to learn what **Evil** is and what forms it takes. The word "Evil" has a distinct technical and categorical meaning in the Word of God. It is not simply a generic word referring to anything that is bad or sinful.

The word "Evil" refers specifically to the policy of Satan as the ruler of this world. Evil is the approach of Satan from the time of his fall throughout the angelic revolution and down to the point when he became the ruler of the world. Satan is directly opposed to anything involving the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan is devoted to distorting or obscuring any truth related to Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3, 4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Evil is Satan's system by which he administers the ruler-ship of this world. He uses his world ruler-ship to try to bring about the downfall of Jesus Christ. Failing that, Satan tries to turn as many people away from Christ as possible.

Through Evil, Satan brings about two major consequences on earth: sin and human good (the motivation of Evil), both of which are based on errors in thinking. The sin of self-righteousness combined with human good or sincerity produces a saturation of Evil in a nation.

One of the main reasons for learning about Evil from the Bible is to learn that man cannot solve his problems by human solutions. Any effective solution to a human problem is a divine solution. And there is an answer in the Bible for every human need or problem. Anything that is outside of the plan of God is part of Satan's strategy of Evil. Therefore, any person who is consistently involved in the cosmic (satanic) system is directly involved with Evil.

Evil results in the destruction of society, the malfunction of society. Evil causes the removal of legitimate authority and its function under the laws of divine establishment. Just as grace and doctrine represent the genius of God in relationship to the human race, so Evil represents the genius of Satan in relationship to the human race.

Therefore, what you think is very important. There are two ways of thinking:

- Divine viewpoint is thinking doctrine, which glorifies Christ.
- Human viewpoint is thinking Evil, which dishonors Christ.

Therefore, the issue is thought vs. thought.

Evil attempts to produce a human good (a remedy for all difficulties) which is expected to solve the problems of life apart from doctrine and divine establishment. Evil is often a distortion of doctrine or a distortion of the laws of divine establishment. Satan's original sin was a distortion of doctrine.

Evil produces the erroneous concept of "brotherly love." The whole idea of government trying to abolish sickness, mental illness, economic problems, frustrations, and human problems by legislation and human solutions is Evil. The world's problems can never be solved apart from Bible doctrine and the laws of divine establishment.

Satan: The Originator of Evil

Evil originated and existed before human history. The means by which it was transmitted from previous creature existence to human history is Satan himself.

The origin of Evil is Satan's genius to devise a system to oppose God. Evil originated in angelic creation in the greatest creature to ever come from the hand of God. Satan controls most of Christianity through his cosmic system. The thing that makes people function in the cosmic system is arrogance. Satan's plan is related to beating Christ to the Millennium with his own attempt to produce a perfect world. The more the world follows his plan, the greater the degeneracy which occurs.

1 John 3:8, "When anyone commits a sin, he has become the agent of the devil."

- The sin nature is usually the source of temptation; volition is the source of sin.
- Your decision to sin puts you immediately into the cosmic system, making you the agent of Satan.
- The works of the devil can only be destroyed by functioning inside the plan of God. We are the products of our own decisions; therefore, we bring disaster on ourselves.

Biblical Conclusions about Evil

Hebrews 5:13-14 "For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and Evil."

The mature believer should be able to distinguish between sin and Evil.

1. *Matthew 6:23, "But if your eye is Evil, the entire body is full of darkness [cosmic involvement]."*

Motivating Evil exists in the thought pattern of the soul. Evil and degeneracy start with a thought. It takes lots of doctrine to reject Evil. The Christian walk is the only real protection against Evil.

2. **Matthew 15:19**, *"For out of the mind come Evil thoughts."*

"Love" refers to the spiritual love which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Personal love *can* think Evil, but impersonal love, a function of the royal family, cannot think Evil.

3. **1 Corinthians 13:5** *"Love does not behave dishonorably, is not preoccupied with self, is not hypersensitive, does not think Evil."*

God protects the believer who is occupied with Christ and who has positive volition to doctrine.

4. **Proverbs 12:21**, *"No Evil happens to the righteous."*

5. **Psalm 37:17** *"But the Lord sustains the righteous."*

6. **Psalm 91:10**, *"No Evil will befall you; you who love the Lord hate Evil. The Lord preserves the souls of His mature ones; He delivers them from the hands of the Evil one."*

7. **Psalm 121:7**, *"The Lord will protect you from all Evil; He will guard your soul."*

8. **Proverbs 2:11-13**, *"The wise sees the Evil and hides himself, but the stupid goes on and is punished for it."*

A believer who walks in the cosmic system can expect to be frustrated by Evil. **Romans 7:19**, *"For what I desire I do not do, but what I do not desire [Evil], this I keep practicing."*

9. **3 John 11**, *"Beloved, do not be imitators of the Evil but of the good."*

The believer is warned to beware of those who practice Evil, **Philippians 3:2**. Not tavern owners and drug dealers, but the respectable ... Even legitimate things are mutilated or distorted. To beware does not necessarily mean to avoid but to understand. Sincere do-gooders are the major practitioners of Evil. The more involved you are in sincere human good crusades, the more you intensify your Evil.

10. **1 Timothy 6:10**, *"The love of money is the root of all Evils."*

Those who are under the influence of Evil always have a price. It is a dangerous temptation to any poor believer to chase after money so as to

neglect Bible doctrine. Actually, this verse applies to the love of any detail of life.

Influence by Evil explains why prayers are not answered. *Job 35:12, "There they cry out, but He does not answer because of the pride of Evil men."* This explains the pattern of saying "no" to truth, building callous on the soul, intensifying arrogance into self-pity, self-righteousness, and guilt, and therefore coming to believe the lie. Believers are often led into the cosmic system and Evil by their Christian friends.

11. **1 Corinthians 15:33**, "*Evil companions corrupt good morals.*" **2 Thessalonians 3:2-3**, "*That we may be delivered from perverse and Evil men, for all believers do not have doctrine; but the Lord is faithful and He will strengthen you and protect you from Evil.*"

The attitude of the mature believer toward Evil is stated in: **Psalm 84:10** "*For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand days in the cosmic system. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of My Lord than to dwell in the tents of Evil.*"

12. Submission to the authority of establishment prevents Evil and the influence of Evil (**Ecclesiastes 8:2-5**).

The laws of divine establishment are designed to protect the citizens of the nation from Evil.

13. **Romans 13:3-4** "*Do you desire not to fear the authority? Therefore, keep on doing the good and you will have recognition from it. For it [government] is a minister of God to you for the purpose of good. But if you do Evil, be afraid. For he does not wear the sword for nothing.*"

Implies that the unbeliever can function successfully within divine establishment when he follows establishment truth.

By protecting against Evil, the laws of divine establishment give freedom and protection for evangelization and for the teaching of Bible doctrine. The only limitation on crime is humility and respect for authority. *Micah 1:12* teaches that our failure to cope with Evil leads to destruction of the nation.

14. *Amos 5:14-15*, "Hate Evil, love good, and establish justice in the court; consequently, the Lord God of the armies will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph."

Evil is distinguished from war and disease (*Jeremiah 28:8*). Sin and Evil occur in war, but war as a category is not Evil. War brings national freedom. War is not sin; it is inevitable and a necessity. Disease in itself is not sinful, though sin and Evil are associated with disease. Not all people who are sick are being disciplined by God.

The Results of Negative Volition to the Word of God

A person resists doctrine (negative volition) because he is antagonistic to truth, to God, and to the things of God. He is the enemy of God's plan. Evil, before it ever becomes a function or action, is a thought or motive. People are degenerate because of the way they think, not because of what they do. You have to be preoccupied with yourself before you can be negative to doctrine. This is characterized by antagonism toward everyone associated with the Christian life. There are three categories of negative volition:

Negative volition at God-consciousness. This is the point of accountability which occurs at different ages depending on the culture. God-consciousness can occur in a number of ways.

- Teleological thinking says a structure demands a designer.
- Cosmological thinking says the intuitive law of cause and effect demands the existence of God.
- Ontological thinking says that since the human mind possesses the idea of a perfect Being, such a Being must exist. There must be an absolute which gives character to the relative.
- Anthropological thinking says that man's soul possesses both volition and conscience with an urge to choose right rather than wrong, and that the structure of society is based on the recognition of virtue and truth.
- Theological thinking says that God must exist because men universally believe in His existence. Heathen are heathen because of negative volition at God-consciousness or Gospel hearing, *Romans 1:18-25*.

Negative volition at Gospel hearing. Rejection of Jesus Christ leaves a person outside of God's plan: *First Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2:20-22*.

Negative volition to doctrine. The believer immediately enters this area when he rejects the communicator or the message. Emotional arrogance is a big reason for this (*2 Corinthians 6:11, "You are hindered by your own emotions."*).

The negative Christian becomes selective in what he thinks, thus rejecting anything resembling truth. Then he leans on his emotions for pleasure, thereby misusing emotion (*Romans 16:17-18*).

Worldly (cosmic) degeneration occurs when a Christian becomes antagonistic to truth and enters into a state of degeneracy. Degeneracy is in the mind long before it is in actions (*Romans 1:24-27 illustrates, "they who exchange the doctrine of God for a lie."*).

Anti-establishment activity occurs when the soul is antagonistic to the laws of divine establishment and authority. *2 Timothy 3:2-3* teaches that this begins in the home with "*disobedience to parents*." This is ingrained antagonism toward authority.

Romans 1:28-32 is the best illustration of anti-establishment thinking and activity.

A remedy for all ills or difficulties are man's attempts to improve the world and are always sponsored by Satan. Any solution sought apart from divine truth is a cosmic deception. A cosmic deception is an Evil (satanic) solution which tries to keep the Lord Jesus Christ out of the picture. The world's view rejects any salvation by grace or spirituality by grace. Instead of freedom, there is the demand for equality. "The end always justifies the means," is the motto of the believer participating in this. He believes in redistribution of wealth, over-taxation, and legislation to solve all problems, sameness in life, big government and little people where citizens are slaves of the state, regulation of private enterprise, confiscation of private property, and utopianism. Cosmic deception led to violence, terrorism, and revolution under the principle of social engineering. The state trains the children to be obedient to the dictates of the state rather than to parents. There is a total rejection of freedom and authority.

2 Timothy 3:7-8, "these religious types oppose doctrine, are men of depraved mind [degenerate], disqualified from blessing with regard to doctrine". See also **Second Peter 2:1-3**.

Religion is Satan's counterfeit to the plan of God. Christianity is not a religion but is a relationship with God through the person of Jesus Christ. Religion is man by man's efforts seeking to gain the approbation of God. **2 Corinthians 11** describes religious leaders. Anthropocentric (man-centered) academic speculation is motivated by pseudo-intellectual arrogance. This is the attempt to reconcile

philosophical and scientific speculation with doctrine. When this can't be done, the person rejects doctrine and seeks a substitute. The more arrogant you are, the more you are attracted to academic speculation.

Protection from Evil

The believer in fellowship is protected from Evil. Satan wants you to drop your guard and go negative toward doctrine (**Psalm 21:11, 23:4; Proverbs 12:12, 20-21; Genesis 48:16, 50:20**, "They meant it for Evil, but God meant it for good.").

There is no coexistence with both Evil and inner happiness. However, sin and happiness can coexist. Do you know anyone happier than David or anyone who lived better than David? You can be happy living in your sins.

There is divine protection from Evil for the positive believer:

1. **Psalm 37:16-19**, "They [positive believers] will not be ashamed in the time of Evil; in the day of depression they will still have abundance."
2. **Psalm 91:10, 97:10, 119:101, 121:7; Proverbs 2:10-14**
3. **Proverbs 1:33**, "He who listens to Me shall live in security, and shall be at ease without fear of Evil."
4. **Proverbs 16:6**, "By occupation with the Lord, one avoids Evil."
5. **Proverbs 19:23** teaches that there is divine protection from Evil all around.

The more doctrine you have in your soul, the more you will love the Lord and the more you will hate Evil. All thoughts in life are actually fighting over your soul (**Proverbs 3:7**).

The negative believer immediately finds a great deal against which he can react, and he moves into the stages of reversion. Remember that Satan offers him a pseudo-maturity status and pseudo prosperity. Satan is capable of rewarding as the ruler of this world. Therefore, the constant intake of doctrine is the only insulation from Evil, because doctrine goes where Evil would reside; i.e., in the mind, and their doctrine combats Evil.

Why Evil?

1. If God is all loving (and He is) why is there evil in the world? Is God the author (creator) of everything in the world? And is evil something in the world. Therefore, God is the author of evil right? No!

Genesis 1:31 - God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

1 Timothy 4:4 - For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

2. Evil is not a thing or a substance. It has no existence within itself.
3. Illustration: a gun can be a good thing during war, for protection, etc. But put a bullet in the chamber but the gun to your head and pull the trigger it's a bad relationship between the gun, the bullet and you.
4. Evil comes out of a good thing called freedom true love is impossible without freedom.
5. God establishes freedom, and it was the misuse of freedom that brought evil into the world. In *Isaiah 14*, who tempted Satan? No one! He was free to make his own decisions.
6. Freedom is far the greater good, but where freedom exists you have the possibility of misusing it.
7. Why does God not destroy evil today? If he did, he would destroy your freedom and he would have to do destroy you.

8. How does God restrain evil today? God the Holy Spirit, and the absolute truth of His Word.
9. Temptation comes from three sources: Satan, demons, and the World System are enemies to all believers and these enemies blind the mind of the unbeliever. The world system is a way of thinking that Satan wants all to develop, rejecting the word of God, depend on human viewpoint.
10. The old sin nature, natural tendencies to take the easy way out, these are the road of least resistance.
11. The Greek word for tempted is "*periazomeos*" which has two meanings. The context of the scripture will explain the meaning.

Objective sense: a test, God will test us – but he will not put any pressure on us – he is testing our obedience. Will we do what he says or not? Which is different from temptation?

Purpose: It is to bring out the good, the best in a believer. God wants you to succeed in life.

Subjective sense: To tempt. Satan and the world system, along with the old sin nature will tempt you. It will create a desire to do that which is wrong.

Purpose: To bring out the worst. Satan wants you to fail and dishonor God.

12. In *Genesis 3*, God did not tempt Adam and Eve, but He tested their obedience.

God created Adam and Eve perfect; they had no old sin nature, no internal draw to sin. Eve was tempted (deceived) by the serpent and disobeyed God. She sinned against God (BUT) Adam will deliberately sin bringing into existence the old sin nature. Everybody born from the time of Adam has an old sin nature (*Romans 5:12*).

Jesus Christ had no internal draw to sin, because he did not have an old sin nature. He was virgin borne; He had no earthly father. Jesus Christ was tempted in all ways to sin, but He never did.

Jesus Christ was led into the wilderness, the desert to be tempted by Satan and to be tested by God the father. He had no internal drawl as we experience it today, He only had external temptations.

When we sin today, it is simply by choice no one can force us to do anything that we do not really want to do.

James 1:13-16 (NASB) ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

Why Is There Evil In the World?

The question often asked is "if there is a God why is there evil in the world?" Would not a God of love eradicate evil? If there is a God, why does he permit it? If God does exist, why is He so remote and not involved in our situation? Doesn't He care? If God is all powerful (which He is) why can't He get rid of the evil in the world? Just because someone doesn't exercise all their power doesn't mean they do not possess all power.

Mankind has free will. The entire universe is God's and under His control, but not everything is according to His will. Nothing happens that God is not aware of or ultimately is not in control of (set boundaries). He allows evil to continue even though it is not His will. If evil were God's will, it would contradict His perfect, Holy nature, everything He stands for, and what He has told man not to do.

God did not invent evil. However, He knew it would come about. Yet, He did not stop it but made a provision for it when it would rear its ugly head. There is coming a day when this will be taken care of, right now, we are in a position of grace where God is commanding all men everywhere to repent. First, evil is a necessary part of free will. Man has free will - we can choose what we want.

We sin because we want to sin. It is our natural inclination. We follow our strongest nature at any given time; we are not morally inclined toward God. As J. B. Phillips has put it: Evil is inherent in the risky gift of free will. God could have made us machines but to do so would have robbed us of our precious freedom of choice, and we would have ceased to be human.

We all exercise free choice in the direction of our nature which is traced to the “fall” of man. This is the basic reason for evil and suffering throughout the world. It is man's responsibility, not God's. It is worth noting that the whole point of real Christianity lies not in interference with the human power to choose, but in God producing a willing consent for us to choose good over evil. He offers us choice and by doing so a chance to grow and understand the difference. Evil is contrary to God's perfect will, but not His permissible will. Good and evil are not opposites.

Evil is the absence of good. The lack of good is where evil will thrive. *Evil is like rust to a car or rot to garment.* We are to be salt and light to the world restraining the evil influence contrary to God. Evil is represented by darkness in the scripture and good that comes from God as light.

Philosophers claim if God is unlimited, then He must consist of being both good and evil. But evil is in itself, a limitation of good. God would then have limitations, and imperfections and these views are contrary to the nature of the God of the scriptures. Evil is devoid of all good. Good is unlimited. You cannot do or have enough “good”. Evil is the limiting factor in good. If there is a God, why does He permit evil? By saying there is evil in the world, one is admitting there is a standard to measure this by. Otherwise, how do they know what is evil. One cannot use the evil in the world to say there is no God. Atheism argues in a circle and does not offer any reasonable objections to God. Who are they to say something is evil.

Everyone has their own opinion of what exactly it is and isn't. So how does one decide if what they call evil someone else is calling good? This is why there must be an ultimate standard for all people. Otherwise, what is evil today may be accepted as good another day.

To be conscious of a standard means there must be a moral lawgiver. To know something is wrong, we must know first that something is right. You must have someone who gives a standard in order to compare against it, and only an absolutely perfect being can draw the line of absolute good. If he has flaws, then his standard will reflect his flaws too.

There is only one solution to all this and God holds it. How can one actually say there is evil without some standard of good to measure it by? And where does that come from? God. The very presence of evil proves there is a God.

If there is no God why punish evil? Why not have let Hitler continue since he was only practicing his truth. Maybe by some he should have been rewarded. As repulsive as this sounds, this is the only alternative to not having parameters made by a greater being. Who are we to decide what is right or wrong? We have a moral conscience no matter what society we have grown up in and recognize good and evil. Man tries to sear that conscience so he won't feel guilty.

The obvious is there is right and any other choice is wrong and can lead to evil in its worst outcome. This is why we cannot sit by when evil intrudes on a people, for the nature of evil is destructive and contrary to everything that civilization holds good. The real question we need to ask is what is evil and what is good? For the answer there must be an ultimate source to go to or we are left to our individual opinions.

Disasters happen to individuals as well as entire cultures because of our general and individual separation from God. How can we expect to avoid certain natural consequences if we have distanced ourselves from that Source? If our life, health, happiness come from God and we reject God's protection, should we then blame Him for the evil we ourselves do?

Much of the suffering in the world can be directly linked to the evil choices we ourselves make as individuals and as nations. It demonstrates that the world in which we live is in need of change.

God's intention from the beginning was not for us to experience pain (*Genesis 2:16:17*), but because we disobeyed, we now live in a world where pain is the natural outcome of disobedience to God's ways. What happens when someone kills another person? We solace the victimizer having pity on him instead of punishing him. He becomes the victim of his bad upbringing or some other issue. This does not promote right conduct or deter crime. We can do just as much harm when bad decisions are made by governments or businesses that can affect people promoting suffering to any who live under their rules.

Evil and Suffering

If God loves His creatures He made, then why have death, pain, and sorrow? If He did not love us, then He would let it continue being present to all and there would be no end to anyone's suffering or pain. Many times, God allows pain to have us identify what can be evil and make us turn from it to preserve our life.

One cannot define evil by saying that it only causes harm to an individual. Then what about operations like an amputation that saves a life, would that be evil? To take away something in order for the body to survive is for the greater good. As would be killing those who want to take over countries to enslave others. The people need to fight back to protect themselves from the intruders. Whether it's on a grand scale or an intrusion in a home, killing can be used to protect, so it cannot be considered evil all the time.

Yet there is some suffering allowed by God as judgment and punishment. This is a possibility which must come into the scheme because he does say he punishes the wicked, he is not mocked. God usually allows such suffering with a view to restoration and reformation of one's character. What is temporary is, to prevent the eternal. Those suffering as a result of their actions usually know why. Just the same as Adam and Eve knew immediately because they had guilt and hid.

The Bible's explanation is that God is not the cause of death, pain or suffering. *"Death came by sin,"* and one day God will end it. *"And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes, or death will be no more."* The argument of shifting the blame to him for all evil and suffering is nonsense when he is the one who will eradicate it. Just because he possesses the greater power does not mean he must use it immediately. We try to blame it on everyone else but ourselves. Worst of all we blame it on God when He is the one with the only solution. Then why hasn't He dealt with the problem of evil in the world? God is dealing with the problem of evil not in an immediate way, but in a progressive fashion.

The false assumption from the atheist is that the only choice God has is to deal with evil all at once in one single act and remove it. God, however, is dealing with the problem of evil throughout *all* human history. One day in the future, Christ will return, destroy wickedness, and hold all men and women accountable for the things they did during their time on earth. Justice will ultimately prevail. Those who enter eternity without having trusted in Christ for salvation will understand just how effectively God has dealt with the problem of evil because they may not be there.

If God does not destroy all the evil on the earth today, is he weak? God does not have to display all his power to show who He is as the almighty. When we look at the example of how Jesus came in humility and meekness, He certainly could have done all and displayed his power but this is not how He operates. There is a balance by his long suffering and patience waiting for us to come to our senses.

There is coming a day when this will be taken care of. Right now, we are in position of grace where God is commanding all men everywhere to repent. God has an enemy and so do we; Satan. He has already been defeated at the cross, sentenced but is free to work his evilness until the day of final judgment. History and experience show there is a power of evil in the world stronger than the evil presently in us. Evil, of course, does not only come from the Devil all the time, but man is very capable to do much harm since man is unable to recognize what is right. If we reject good found in God's standards, the source of all morality and ethics, then there is only the opposite to be done.

Mankind is taken captive and suffers from its own denials and bad choices. But it is God Himself who also suffered, and by doing so has solved the problem of evil. At an untold cost to Himself, He sent his Son to become one of us. The consequences of evil for eternity is forever removed from us as individuals as we embrace the Lord Jesus Christ. Our sin is forgiven and we receive new life and the power to choose what is right over what is wrong. We are able to know the difference as the Holy Spirit conforms us to the image of Christ.

One cannot fight evil by emotions or feelings because evil/sin feels good. Nor can one test truth by our feeling's truth is either objective or it is not truth at all. If evil is only opinion, then it is subject to each person's interpretation, and may no longer be considered evil to another.

People say listen to your heart. Jesus, echoing Jeremiah the prophet said, *our heart is deceitfully wicked*. What we need to do is listen to the Word. God is the ultimate good and His goodness can be understood by the moral creatures He has willed to be like Himself. We cannot always stop from doing wrong but we certainly know when we are doing it. The problem is wanting our own choice, blinding ourselves to our moral conduct and to our need for change so we can be healed.

God can certainly force everyone against their will to be obedient and good just as parents could force their children to behave precisely the way they want in some respect. But He allows man to retain the power of choice. And if he were robbed of that power, he would no longer be man but some lesser species, moral cripples, unable to discern and grow on his own. We would be like puppets on a string, when He says do this, we do so. Would any atheist want this for a solution? I do not think so. They would complain about that as much as the way things are today. They should look at themselves before they indiscriminately blame God for all the evil in this world!

If blame is to be given to anyone, then the pain, sorrow and evil we experience in the world must be charged to man. Sin and suffering are not God's doing, but man's by rejecting what God has given for our own protection!

God is not indifferent or unconcerned "But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses..." While we are in this spiritual bankrupt condition that affects us all he offers grace out of this condition to us as individuals.

Motivated by love, He had mercy on us reaching down into our drowning conditions. But we rejected His solution wanting to swim in our pools of human misery, even if we drown there.

If Jesus was Tempted, How Can He Be God?

1. Jesus, in His humanity, was tempted like any other human.

***James 1:13-15:** "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."*

2. Because one is tempted does not mean a response will be produced.

***Matthew 4:1-3** "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

***Luke 4:13** gives us the source of the temptation. "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."*

All these temptations instigate a response from the sin nature in man of which Jesus had none; the devil was tempting His humanity at the time He was weak from hunger, trying to have Him use His power to feed the flesh.

Could Jesus have sinned in His humanity? Jesus, being both God and man was one person. If His humanity was separate, it could have willed to do what it wanted, but the humanity of Christ cannot be separated from His deity. His spirit ruled over His flesh in everything; this is why He was without sin. While He had the choice to sin and could be tempted from the outside, He did not have the ability to sin. Being God He was in complete control over His humanity. He did not act independently on his own initiative but always had the purpose to do the will of God, that which is holy and sinless. Being tempted does mean one is susceptible to do that temptation. For Jesus, temptation could not bring out any desire in Him to sin.

Hebrews 2:18: “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

Were the temptations genuine? Did He feel what we feel? Each of us can relate to being tempted and have successfully resisted that temptation, not giving in to the pull of sin. The temptations were real but could not elicit a response. An example would be something like this: I do not like okra. You can offer me this to eat all day, dress it up with spices or sauces that will hide its smell, but I will not respond in the least. I'm dead to it; I won't eat it. I'm sure everyone has at least one example like this they can use in his or her life.

Hebrews 4:15: “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

This means in *each area of sin* He was tempted (i.e. the world, the flesh the Devil). However, He was not tempted by *every known sin* to mankind.

Some argue that if there was no possibility for His sinning, then the temptations were meaningless. The nature of the temptations was not there to trap Him but to prove His deity. The true purpose of the temptations was to demonstrate He could not sin and it was proof that He *is* the Sinless Son of God.

James 1:13-16 (Explanation of Temptation)

James 1:13 - Let ¹no one say when he is ²tempted, “³I am being tempted by God”; ⁴for God cannot be tempted by evil, and ⁵He Himself does not tempt anyone.

1. “**No one**”: no believer has the right to say he is tempted by God. Don’t blame God for putting into our hearts the tendency to sin. In **Genesis 3:12-13** Adam blamed Satan and Satan blamed God.
2. “**tempted**”: “*Periazomeos*” – solicitation to sin, the inner desire to do that which is contrary to His nature. To entice to improper behavior (it can be used for both being tested by someone and being tempted by someone, When a believer is being tempted by the world system, Old Sin Nature, Satan, or another human being, he does not have the right to say he is being tempted by God.
3. “**I am being tempted**”: The idea is that we must recognize the source of temptation. When you go through adversity, do not blame God for your problems. Failure, is a result of bad decisions you are making.
4. “**for**”: Greek “*gar*” introduces an explanation as to why you are not to blame God!
5. “**God cannot be tempted by evil**”: God has no experience with evil (affirms His Essence). He is not tempted (there is nothing in His character that temptation can appeal to). Therefore, let us stop tempting God, challenging Him to do that which is contrary to His nature (character). God has never been, can never be, and will never be tempted by evil. Satan can do nothing to tempt. Satan would **LIKE** to get God to do something wrong and he has tried desperately – but without success.
6. “**He Himself does not tempt anyone**”: God does not tempt anyone. God cannot have anything to do with sin. If He did, that would **VOID** His righteousness. God will not use sin to test believers. (It is true that God has given us an appetite for food, but He, under any circumstances, is held responsible if we make gluttons of ourselves). He will not tempt us to do what is contrary to His Law! Evil always calls wrong right – God never does! Evil tempts a person to do good even when it results in wrong.

- a. God does not tempt – talking about His actions.
- b. God is not able to be tempted – this is talking about His character, His Essence.

¹⁴ **1** *But* **2** *each one* **3** *is* **4** *tempted* **5** *when he* **is** **6** *carried away* **7** *and enticed* by his **8** *own lust*.

1. “***But***”: In contrast to God – the believer is tempted by his own desire (we are tempted to think and act contrary to God).
2. “***each one***”: Male/female but all are different. What may tempt one will not tempt another.
3. “***is***”: How sin develops.
4. “***tempted***”: Involves two things:
 - 1) Desire: suggesting a strong desire for something and
 - 2) Enticement: an opportunity to satisfy the desire.

What tempts one person may not be any temptation to another person. We have our own area of temptation, depending upon what we value most in life. The things we want most in life are generally the areas in which we are tempted to sin. Temptation is the longing, the desire to have or do or say something that we have always wanted. Temptation is not a sin; it is only temptation. The OSN will continue to tempt you until you give it what it wants and still it is not satisfied and wants more. Temptations do not go away, it only hibernates.

5. “***when he***”: Volitional choice.
6. “***carried away***”: Hunting term. Temptation can draw or lure one away from his own self restraints. To lure the animal out into the opening (out of their protected zone). He cannot shoot the animal until he lures it out into the opening.
7. “***and enticed***”: Bait. Fishing term. To ensnare with bait.
8. “***own lust***”: Desire. Every believer has their own favorite pattern of lust. It has been given mental assent.

¹⁵ *1Then when lust 2has conceived, it 3gives birth to sin; and 4when sin is 5accomplished, it brings forth death.*

1. **“Then”**: There comes to us the desire to do something, to go somewhere and somehow we cannot rest until it is fulfilled can idea has terrific power.
2. **“has conceived”**: Becomes pregnant – that desire begins as the smallest of desire in the body and continues to grow and it can no longer stand being confined like the fetus that can no longer take being in the womb (the desire has grown and grown until it can no longer be contaminated).
3. **“gives birth to sin”**: The problem does not stop there.
4. **“when sin accomplished, it brings forth death”**: Reference to carnality, death (sin nature at birth). Carnal Death is the result of personal sin by the believer after salvation. *1 Corinthians 10:13*

Believers – unbelievers were already being deceived and would continue to deceive themselves. There was nothing else that could be done for them.

1. The believer without doctrine in the soul knows this is wrong but has no doctrinal power with which to fight back and say “No!”
2. The mature believer recognizes the tug, immediately says “No!” and slams the door shut.
3. The immature believer who is growing in grace is torn between both worlds of easily giving in on the one hand and dogmatically saying ‘no’ on the other hand.
4. The lust pattern always entices us with the things it knows we like. It brings to our imagination all the things we would like to have and offers them to us free of charge.
5. The lust pattern always says we can have what we want and never warns us that there will be a price to pay.
6. This is no different than what Satan did to the woman in the Garden of Eden before the fall. He enticed her with all the power and wisdom she would have without warning her of her resultant total depravity and spiritual death.

7. Sin is always a trap, a snare – something that looks or sound good but always dies the repercussions.

¹⁶ ***Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.***

1. “***Do not***”: Stop an action in progress – that temptation comes from God. They were in the process of being deceived by the false teachers’ other believers and they were deceiving themselves which indicates that they were already negative to the Word of God! Not advancing in the spiritual life. When believers permit outside pressures of adversity in life (inside their soul) they begin deceiving themselves.
2. “***brethren***”: Believers.

The Superiority of Jesus Christ

I. The Superiority of Jesus Christ in the Angelic Conflict: Hebrews Ch. 1 & 2

A. Jesus Christ is BETTER than the Prophets: Hebrews 1

1. The Prophets' Message was to reveal Christ: ***1:1***
2. Our God's Purpose is to Speak through His Son: ***1:2-3***

B. Jesus Christ is BETTER than the Angels: 1:4-5

1. Incarnation (when Christ became flesh (man))

- a. Virgin Birth
- b. Death
- c. Burial
- d. Resurrection

2. Ascension: (when Christ went up to heaven)

3. Session: (When Christ sat down at the right hand of God)

C. Jesus Christ is BETTER because of the 2nd Advent: 1:6

1. Because of the Doctrine of the First born.
2. Because of the Doctrine of angelic worship.

D. Jesus Christ is BETTER because of His Sovereignty: 1:7-8
(A contrast between Angels and the Incarnate Christ)

1. He makes angels His servants: *1:7*
2. He uses angels to minister judgment: *1:7*
3. Angels don't have a sovereign throne like Him: *1:8*
4. Angels don't have administrative government like His - with perfect execution of righteousness. (Impeccability)

E. Jesus is BETTER because of His Appointment: 1:9-12

1. He is appointed to solve the Angelic Conflict: *1:9*
2. He is the indestructible appointed One: *1:10-12*

F. Jesus Christ is BETTER because of Operation Footstool: 1:13-14

1. Only Jesus Christ is Invited to Sit Down: *1:13*
2. Believers are also seated in Christ: *1:14*
3. Angels then serve believers on earth currently: *1:14*

II. The Salvation Issue in the Angelic Conflict: Hebrews 2 (The development of Operation Footstool)

A. The Human Race and the Warning of the Angelic Conflict: 1-4

1. A warning to the Jewish Unbeliever: 2:1 (67 AD)
2. An analogy to the judgment of Fallen Angels: 2:2-3
3. Special Evangelism to the Jews before the 5th Cycle: 2:4

B. The Ultimate Power of Christ in the Angelic Conflict: 2:5

No Angels will rule in the Millennium:

1. They may serve--but no rulership.
2. Jesus Christ, the God-man will rule in the Millennium.

C. The Contrast between the First Adam and the Last Adam in the Angelic Conflict: 2:6-9

1. The Insignificance of Man: (1st Adam) **2:6**
2. The Position of Man: (1st Adam) **2:7**
3. The Last Adam and Victory: (Last Adam) **2:8**
4. The mechanics of Victory: (Last Adam) **2:9**

D. The Fruitage of Christ's Work in the Angelic Conflict: 10-11

1. Completion of the Body of Christ: **2:10**
2. Oneness in the Body of Christ: **2:11** (Positional Truth)
3. Documentation of the Plan (Whole Procedure), the Word: **2:12**
4. Revealing the Two sides to Operation Footstool in the Angelic Conflict: **2:1**

E. The Mechanics of Operation Footstool in the Angelic Conflict: 2:14
(One on one--Christ vs. the Devil--neutralized him)

F. The Victory of Operation Footstool in the Angelic Conflict: 2:15-16

1. The Result of the Victory: (Deliverance - Salvation -no fear of death –apply: **1 Cor. 15:54-57**)
2. The basis of the Victory: **2:16** (Incarnation)

G. The Suffering Issue of the Angelic Conflict: 2:17-18

1. The Suffering of Christ as a High-Priest: **2:17-18a**
2. The Sustaining of the believer as a result: **2:18b**

The sum result of these two chapters is found in ***Ephesians 3:8-10***, verse 10 indicating, "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." ***Ephesians 6:12*** indicates that these are demon powers. Thus because of God's great plan the church, God the Son's body, is used to consummate the Angelic Conflict. Satan is judged and bumped, demons are judged and bumped. Result: perfect environment in the millennium.

As a disciple (learner) you know we are at war. You have experienced the spiritual conflict that goes on in your Christian walk between the forces of good and evil. You have discovered that no matter how many battles you win; Satan always

returns to fight another day. We are in the heat of the battle right now. We struggle daily against the:

1. World
2. Flesh (the old sin nature)
3. Satan (demons)

As believers in Christ, we will encounter tribulations, various trials, but ours are a struggle with a guaranteed victory.

The book of the Revelation tells how, and when evil is destroyed. It all happens at the Second Advent of Christ at the end of the Tribulation. Then all mankind, and the earth will be at peace free from the deception of Satan and His evil policy.

We will live with God forever in a perfect environment without sinning or the presence of evil.

the end of ALL EVIL



Revelation 21:4-5 - and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."