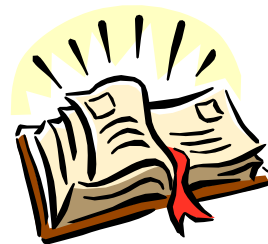


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## Satan.

(2013)

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## Satan.

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### Topics.

- **Satan in the Old Testament.**

- Solomon's enemies are human Satan's. (1 Kings 5:4)
- Hadad is a human Satan. (1 Kings 11:14)
- Rezon is a human Satan. (1 Kings 11:23-24)
- God acted as a satan against Israel. (1 Chron. 21:1) (2 Sam. 24:1)
- David friends are human Satan's (Psalm 109:1-4)
- David's prays for a human Satan (Psalm 109:4-6)
- David's adversaries are human Satan's (Psalm 109:29)
- The LORD rebuke thee, O' Satan. (Zech.3:1-5)

- **Satan in the New Testament.**

- Jesus Peter and Satan. (Matt. 16:23) (Mark 8:33)
- Satan takes away the word. (Mark 4:13-15)
- I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. (Luke 10:19)
- A woman and Satan bound, eighteen years. (Luke 13:16)
- Satan entered into Judas. (Luke 22:3) (John 13:27)
- Simon, Satan has desired to have you. (Luke 22:31-62)
- Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie. (Acts 5:3)
- Open their eyes from the power of Satan. (Acts 26:18)
- The God of peace shall bruise Satan. (Rom. 16:20)
- Deliver him to Satan. (1 Cor. 5:5)
- Lest Satan should get advantage of us. (2 Cor. 2:11)
- Satan is transformed into an angel of light. (2 Cor. 11:14-15)
- A thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan. (2 Cor. 12:7)
- Satan hindered us. (1 Thess. 2:18)
- Hymenaeus and Alexander delivered to Satan. (1 Tim. 1:20)
- Some are turned aside after Satan. (1 Tim. 5:15)
- The synagogue of Satan. (Rev. 2:9)
- Pergamos where Satan's seat is. (Rev. 2:12-13)
- The depths of Satan. (Rev. 2:24-25)
- The synagogue of Satan. (Rev. 3:9)

**INTRODUCTION:** since this presentation of Satan is very different to Hollywood's presentation of him and too much of traditional religious thinking concerning Satan and to many people's concept of him, it is my hope that those who hold fast to a particular way of thinking will be mentally open enough to set it aside for a short moment and consider a different perspective. Then upon reaching the end make their own decision or perhaps be motivated to search it out even more for themselves. The study begins with a brief overview of the meaning of Satan and then begins at the Old Testament and travels through all the Scriptures in the New Testament and the book of Revelation that use the word Satan.

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**A brief overview of Satan:** in the Hebrew and Greek language Satan does not have a capital \*S\* and simply means an adversary, one who withstands, opposes or resists and attacks. It can refer to an individual man or woman, an organization (religious or secular) a government or a nation that acts as an adversary to God and opposes His will and acts against the Lord Jesus Christ and those who faithfully follow him. In the original Hebrew language the word satan never carries the idea of an evil powerful spiritual creature.

Satan is a word that symbolizes everything that is the total opposite to what is good, decent and right. In many verses of the Bible the word satan is often personified as the arch enemy of God this is course is why it is given a capital \*S.\* The New Testament says the works of Satan are evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication's, thefts, a false witness, blasphemies, covetousness, wickedness, deceit and lasciviousness. Pride, foolishness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulation's, wrath, strife, sedition's and heresies, envying, drunkenness, reveling, and such like.

The Bible tells us all of these dwell in the human heart and clearly shows us that they are all the works of Satan which shows us that Satans dwelling place must be in the human heart therefore the word satan is a personification of the evil in the heart that influences a person's own lust, ego and pride etc., in rebellion against God or to act as an adversary to Christ and those who follow him.

The word satan is not limited in its meaning to only religious matters, satan in its widest and fullest sense is a personification of everything that is opposed to what is good (religious or secular) this why it has the universal title, "the arch enemy of good." This influence can be manifested through an individual, a group, a government or leaders of nations that act as an adversary and enemy to everything that is good, decent and right.

John tells us that the whole world lives under the influence and power of the evil one and Paul says unbelievers follow the prince of the power of the air because the god of this world has blinded their minds. The titles "the evil one," "the prince of the power of the air" and "the god of this world" all refer to the same power and influence that affects the human mind, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, they are simply different titles for the same entity which personifies the evil that rises up out of the darkness dwelling in the bottomless depth of the human heart and influences the world, this entity in most verses is called satan or the devil (1 John 5:19) (2 Cor. 4:4) (Eph. 2:2).

**Satan's dwelling place:** the Bible tells us that God's dwelling place is heaven, but where in the Bible does it tell us where Satan dwells? The best place to find the answer to this question is to begin at the following words of Jesus and James.

In the book of Matthew Jesus said: -

- For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander (Matt. 15:19).

In the book of Mark Jesus said: -

- For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within (Mark 7:21-23).

James wrote: -

- Each person is tempted when they are lured and enticed by their own desire, then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death (James 1:14-15)

These verses shine a spotlight on the truth that evil dwells in the human heart and we know that these corruptions are all the works of Satan and in the book of James we read: -

- Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire (lust in the KJV) (James 1:14).

So the word satan is a personification of man's own sinful desires and the mind of the flesh (self, ego, pride, greed and lust etc.,) when a person is acting against God and His will. If Satan is the evil power in the world and all of his works proceed from the heart of man, then Satan's dwelling place must be within the human body or more specifically the heart of every human.

The word satan is simply the personification of self, ego, pride, greed and lust etc., rebelling against God, His will, His plans and His purposes.

In the Hebrew language satan does not have a capital "S", the word simply means an adversary and neither does satan in its original meaning carry the idea that it is some kind of evil powerful spirit creature, it is simply a word that applies to anything that acts as an adversary, especially to God and His will and against what is right and good. The word satan can apply to any individual human, group of people, (secular or religious), government or leaders of nations that are opposed to God and acting as adversaries to God's will and what is good, decent and right.

### **Satan, the Devil, the Dragon and the Serpent.**

Satan in most instances is a word that is used as a symbol for the human world of evil and opposition to God. The devil is a highly appropriate word for the power of sin in human life and the dragon and the serpent generally symbolizes the power of universal sin or the collective mind of a group, the world or governments that are opposed to God and His will.

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### **New Testament.**

Congratulations for making it this far, continue to be patient and read the following with an open mind (at least until you reach the end) especially since the following New Testament Scriptures shine a very bright light upon the meaning of the Hebrew word satan.

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### **1 Kings 5**

#### **Solomon's enemies are human Satan's.**

1 Kings 5:4 ----- <sup>4</sup>But now the LORD my God hath given me (Solomon) rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary (satan in Hebrew) nor evil misfortune.

Solomon is in a time of peace and is saying that God has not brought up any human adversaries against him (meaning nations to war against Israel). It is interesting to notice that the word adversary in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word satan so the verse in the original Hebrew manuscripts would be written, "Now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither satans nor evil misfortune." The satans in this verse are the armies of Solomon's enemies.

**Hadad is a human Satan.**

1 Kings 11:14 ----- <sup>14</sup>the LORD stirred up an adversary (satan in Hebrew) unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

This verse tells us that God brought an adversary named Hadad against Solomon. The word adversary in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word satan so the verse in the original Hebrew manuscripts would be written, "The LORD stirred up satans unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom. The satans in this verse is Hadad.

**Rezon is a human Satan.**

1 Kings 11:23-25 ----- <sup>23</sup>And God stirred him (Solomon) up another adversary (satan in Hebrew) Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah: <sup>24</sup>And he (Rezon) gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus. <sup>25</sup>And he (Rezon) was an adversary (satan in Hebrew) to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that Hadad did: and he (Rezon) abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

These verses tell us that God stirred up Rezon to be an adversary to Solomon and Israel. The word adversary in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word satan so the verse could be written God brought a satan named Rezon against Solomon and Israel.

**1 Chronicles 21****God Acted as a Satan against Israel.**

1 Chronicles 21:1 ----- <sup>1</sup>Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

This is the first mention of Satan in the Old Testament. In this verse Satan is the one that stood up against Israel and caused David to number Israel, but in the following verse (a parallel passage) we are told: -

- Again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah (2 Samuel 24:1).

In Chronicles we are told it was Satan who was against Israel and who provoked David to number Israel while in Samuel we read that it was the LORD who was against Israel and who provoked David to number Israel. These verses clearly show us that the word satan in the Hebrew language simply means an adversary. In both cases God was the adversary that stood against Israel and caused David to number Israel.

**NOTE:** there are many cases in the Bible where God tells David to number the people and it is right for him to do so, but he was only to number the men over twenty years of age because they were able to go to war any male younger than twenty was not allowed to be counted as a soldier they were to remain at home so that they would live to give birth to future generations, in case there were no survivors during Israel's battles. Perhaps David's sin was numbering all the men instead of just the men over twenty.

**Psalm 109****David friends are human Satan's.**

Psalm 109:1-5 ----- <sup>1</sup>Hold not thy peace, O God of my (David) praise; <sup>2</sup>For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. <sup>3</sup>They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me

without a cause. <sup>4</sup>For my love they are my adversaries (satan in Hebrew)) but I give myself unto prayer. <sup>5</sup>And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

David is saying that his friends are speaking lies full of hatred against him and have become adversaries to him. The word adversary is translated from the Hebrew word satan so the verse could read that David's friends have become satans to him.

#### **David's prays for a human Satan.**

Psalms 109:4-6 ----- <sup>4</sup>For my love they (wicked and deceitful men) are my adversaries (satan in Hebrew), but I give myself unto prayer. <sup>5</sup>And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love. <sup>6</sup>Set thou a wicked man over him: and let satan (let an accuser in ESV) stand at his right hand (King James Bible).

It appears one of David's close friends who most likely stood at his right hand as his counsellor has influenced wicked and deceitful men to rise up against him so in prayer David asks God to put a wicked man along side his friend and to let satan stand at his right hand. Satan in this context means a man who will way oppose and betray David's friend in the same manner that he has opposed and betrayed David.

#### **David's adversaries are human Satan's.**

Psalms 109:29 ----- <sup>29</sup>Let my adversaries (satan in Hebrew) be clothed with shame and, let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.

David prays that his adversaries meaning all who are against him will be brought to shame. Adversaries in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word satan so the verse could read, "Let those who are satans to me be clothed in shame."

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### **Zechariah 3**

#### **The LORD rebuke thee, O' Satan.**

Zechariah 3:1-5 ----- <sup>1</sup>And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. <sup>2</sup>And the LORD said unto Satan. The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan, even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? <sup>3</sup>Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. <sup>4</sup>And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. <sup>5</sup>And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

All of this is a very symbolic vision which is primarily to show the people of Israel that God has accepted Joshua the high priest and exalted him. To understand these verses keep in mind to the Hebrew people the word satan simply meant an adversary and not some kind of evil powerful spirit creature. For the Hebrews people the word satan referred to anyone who acted as an adversary against God, against His people and against what was good decent and right. In the context of these verses the word satan refers to all of the nations that are enemies to Jerusalem and Israel, and are against, opposed to, or acting as adversaries to Joshua (see Zechariah chapter 1, 2).

The expression, "The LORD rebuke thee O Satan" if written outside of prophetic or poetic language would be written, "Don't worry Joshua, the LORD is against every nation that make themselves your enemies, God is with you, and will fight for you." This is a vision of God comforting Joshua by telling him that the LORD is on his side and against all nations that attempt to rise up against him. Satan in these verses is not an evil powerful spirit creature of some kind, but a symbol of any human adversary or nation that might rise up against Joshua, Jerusalem and the people of Israel and act as adversaries against them.

To help understand Satan as a human adversary, see the title: "Angels can be Human" in, Angels (ON WEBSITE MENU)

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## **New Testament.**

Now we continue our spiritual adventure of discovery through the New Testament, since much of what is written is most likely very different to what you may have been taught I would encourage you to remain mentally open as you travel through these New Testament Scriptures since they also shine a very bright light upon the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek word satan. In the New Testament the word satan has the same meaning as the Old Testament which is to act as an adversary and an accuser and withstand against another and against what is right and good this is why the universal title of Satan is the arch enemy of all that is good.

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## **Matthew 16**

### **Jesus, Peter and Satan.**

Matthew 16:23 ----- <sup>23</sup>But he (Jesus) turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan, thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

In the book of Mark it is written: -

- When he (Jesus) had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan, for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men (Mark 8:33).

In the Hebrew and Greek language the word satan means adversary and carries the idea of one who withstands or opposes another in purpose or act which is exactly what Peter is doing to Jesus that is why Jesus calls him a Satan. Peter at this moment in time is acting as an adversary to the Lord and an opposer to God's will. The verse could read, "And Jesus said to Peter, Get behind me you adversary you are an offence to me: for you are not valuing the ways of God, but those that are of men." Clearly satan in this context is not some evil spirit creature, but Peter one of Jesus very own apostles.

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## **Mark 4**

### **Satan takes away the Word.**

Mark 4:13-15 ----- <sup>13</sup>And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? <sup>14</sup>The sower soweth the word. <sup>15</sup>And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Satan in the context of this parable applies to anyone that takes the word away from a believer it could be a false religious leader, unbelieving friends or a persons own family, a boss or a marriage partner or the pleasures and material possessions of the world.

Anything or anyone that has the potential to destroy a Christian's faith can be referred to as a satan, since the word satan in the Hebrew and Greek language simply means to be an adversary and carries the idea of opposing or withstanding against a thing.

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## **Luke 10**

### **I beheld Satan as Lightning Fall from Heaven.**

Luke 10:19 ----- <sup>19</sup>And he (Jesus) said unto them (72 men), I beheld satan as lightning fall from heaven.

At the beginning of this chapter the Lord appointed seventy-two men and told them to go into every town and proclaim the Kingdom of God. After proclaiming the Kingdom they return to the Lord with enormous joy, no-doubt because multitudes were accepting their message, at this point Jesus tells them that he "Saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." The expression Satan falling from Heaven" is the same symbolic language that Jesus used when he said, "Capernaum, will be exalted to Heaven?" (Luke 10:15).

The expression Satan falling from Heaven" simply means that everything that has been opposing the Kingdom of God and acting as an adversary to it is now losing their stronghold (i.e. the Pharisees, the religious political system, the law, the priesthood, the synagogues) are all losing their hold on the people because seventy-Spirit filled disciples with the power of God are now taking the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world). At the end of this chapter Jesus thanks God that the common people are now hearing the Gospel of the Kingdom (Luke 10:21).

This is a fantastic moment for the Kingdom of God it is the beginning of the Gospel going around the world and the first time on earth such a vast number of men with the power and approval of God have gone at the same time to preach the Kingdom of God. The words, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven," simply means that Jesus could see the fall of everyone seated in high positions of religious power and authority (i.e. the priesthood, the Pharisees and scribes).

Jesus could see they were losing their power and control over the people and falling from their positions of pride. Satan in the context of these verses refers to men full of human pride who are in high places of religious authority and power and who are opposing the plans and purposes of God and acting as adversaries to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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## Luke 13

### A woman, Satan bound, Eighteen Years.

Luke 13:16 -----<sup>16</sup>And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?

At the beginning of this story Jesus is teaching in synagogues on the Sabbath and sees a woman who for eighteen years had been crippled over with a spirit of infirmity meaning some kind of sickness that caused her body to be bent over so that at no time was she able to stand up straight. Jesus said to her, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity" and immediately she was able to stand up straight, and glorified God, but a hypocritical ruler of the synagogue was angry because the Lord had healed on a Sabbath Day, so Jesus said to the people, "Shouldn't this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound for eighteen years, be healed from her crippling sickness on a Sabbath Day?"

The following is not a dogmatic explanation, prior to the fall of mankind, there was no sickness (i.e. Adam and Eve never needed hankies, ambulances, doctors or hospitals) so with this in mind sickness and crippling diseases etc., are not in the ideal or perfect eternal will of God and therefore can be referred to as being from Satan because anything less than perfection is not God's ideal eternal will so whatever causes a person pain or hurt in some way, or robs a them from joy can be referred to as being from Satan. This is because the word satan in the Hebrew and Greek language embraces everything that is opposite and opposed to the perfect eternal and ideal will of God.

**NOTE:** God's perfect will as used in these paragraphs is not used with this mortal, decaying and temporal word in mind since suffering and trials are not only a very real part of life this side of Christ's return, but are also used as tests of our faith which is more precious than gold (1 Pet. 1:7), because if we endure to the end we will inherit eternal life and everlasting glory. God's perfect and ideal will as used in these notes refers to His eternal will for all creation in which there will be no pain, sorrow or suffering.



## Satan Entered into Judas

Luke 22:3 ----- <sup>3</sup>Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

In the book of John it is written: -

- After the sop satan entered into him. Then said Jesus, That thou doest, do quickly. (John 13:27).

The word satan (Satanas) in the Hebrew and Greek language simply means adversary (i.e., to be an adversary, to oppose or to withstand against a thing) which means satan in this context is the personification of greed, lies and deceit in the heart of Judas and outwardly manifested in his betrayal of Jesus for the lowly sum of thirty pieces of silver (thirty days wages). Judas on a human level was in every sense a Satan as he acted as the ultimate adversary to God's Kingdom and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I say on a human level because Jesus' betrayal death and resurrection was all in God's eternal plan and is spoken of in the Old Testament Scriptures and by the Prophets. Nevertheless the expression, "Satan entered into him" in this context means Judas greed for money took over any goodness that may have been in him and he set about to betray the Lord. Money was of more value to him than the Lord's friendship. Satan in this verse is the personification of everything that was in Judas heart that motivated him to betray the Lord Jesus Christ.

**NOTE:** it is almost certain that Judas did not realise that the religious leaders were going to have Jesus brutally tortured and cruelly put to death this is no doubt why when Judas saw that the religious leaders condemn Jesus to death he regretted what he had done and took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he went and hanged himself (Matt. 27:3-5) obviously Judas felt great guilt and great remorse for what he had done.

### Simon, Simon, Satan has desired to have You.

Luke 22:31-32 ----- <sup>31</sup>And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: <sup>32</sup>But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

The disciples are having the Last Supper with Jesus Judas goes to betray Jesus by telling the chief priests and Pharisees where Jesus is, while Judas is gone, Jesus tells Peter that he prayed that Peter's faith will not fail because Satan has desired to test him. Then Jesus tells Peter that after he is tested to go and comfort and strengthen his brothers and sisters in Christ.

A few hours later Peters faith is tested: -

- Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. <sup>61</sup>And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. <sup>62</sup>And Peter went out, and wept bitterly (Luke 22:60-62).

When Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you" Jesus knew Peter was going to deny him. Later while Peter was warming himself and watching Jesus being mocked and tortured by the Roman soldiers some people asked Peter if he was a disciple of Jesus, these questions put Peter in a position of being truthful and risk putting his life in jeopardy or lying and protecting himself from possible harm so out of fear of being identified with Christ and tortured with him, Peter denies Jesus.

Satan in the context of this story is the personification of fear and lies that reside in the human heart. Peter to protect himself had to lie and in this lie he was betraying his friendship with Jesus and it was in this sense that Jesus was able to say, "Satan desires to sift him."

When a person lies, (especially when it betrays a friendship), it can be personified as Satan, because contained within the meaning of the word Satan is everything that is opposed to God and lying is near the top of the list, so Satan in this context is the personification of Peter's fear and his lies. Even though the Lord understands why a Christian might lie about their faith or even deny Christ when their life is threatened it is not God's will that they do even though it may be humanly understandable, nevertheless Jesus after his resurrection when he met Peter at the seaside did not condemn Peter for his faithlessness, but rather ate with him and Peter became one of the Lord's greatest disciples.

**NOTICE:** the Lord told Peter Satan was going to sift him as wheat, no-doubt this was an emotionally difficult and mentally tormenting experience for Peter, but God used this sifting to change Peter forever and for the Lord Jesus Christ's glory.

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## Acts 5

### Ananias, why has Satan filled your Heart to Lie.

Acts 5:3 ----- <sup>3</sup>Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

At this time the Lord's disciples were selling what they had and distributing it out amongst them. Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold a property they owned and rather than give the entire amount of money to the disciples they decided to keep a portion of it. Up to this point they have not sinned or lied, Peter even told them that it would have been OK for them to keep some of the sale money as it was their property to do with as they liked.

Their offence was not in keeping the money, but in the lie they told Peter when he asked them if they were giving the entire amount of money they received from the sale of the property and they lied and said, "Yes." The term lying to the Holy Spirit refers to lying to Peter and the disciples with him. When a Christian lies to their brothers and sisters in Christ it can be rightly written and said that they lied to the Holy Spirit and to God.

Ananias and his wife Sapphira did not want to tell their brothers and sisters in Christ that they had kept a portion of the money for themselves. Perhaps they wanted to appear holier and more righteous than they actually were and if this is so then it was pride that caused them to lie. Satan in the context of this story is the personification of pride and whatever else resided in the heart of Ananias and his wife Sapphira that caused them to tell Peter such a blatant lie.

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## Acts 26

### Open their Eyes, from the Power of Satan to God.

Acts 26:18 ----- <sup>18</sup>To open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

**Light:** in this context means words of truth (i.e. the Gospel of Christ) (v25).

When Paul was on the road to Damascus a light brighter than the brightness of the sun shone at midday and he fell to the earth, then in a vision Jesus told him that he has called him to be a witness to the things he has seen and heard and that his ministry will be to open peoples eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so they would receive forgiveness of sins.

The expression, "Open their eyes, from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God," means to open people's minds from false teaching and hypocrisy and turn their minds to truth and righteousness. During the time of Paul it was the religious leaders, the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes who through their hypocrisy, legalism and traditions were blinding the people to God's grace, God's mercy and God's forgiveness, so the expression, "Open their eyes, and to turn them from

darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins” means that Paul’s ministry was to free those who were seeking God from the power of the Pharisees, the priests and all who were in high religious positions because they were in Paul’s era actually working as enemies to the will and purpose of God, we know this because after Paul’s experience on the Damascus road he was in the temple teaching Christ and the religious Jews tried to kill him (Acts 26:21).

**Satan and religious leaders:** the original meaning of satan in the Hebrew and Greek language means one who opposes another in purpose or act therefore Satan in the context of these verses embraces the religious Jews who tried to kill Paul, the chief priest, the Pharisees and scribes who were all opposing the purposes of God. It was these religious leaders who through their hypocrisy, legalism and traditions had blinded the eyes of the people to the light (meaning the love, grace and mercy of God and His word). Paul’s message freed the people from the hypocrisy and stronghold that the chief priests, Pharisees and the priests had over the people (Acts 26:19-20).

**The power of Satan:** is a personification of the collective hypocritical power and stronghold that the chief priests, Pharisees and the priest had over the people who were truly seeking God. This controlling power that motivated these hypocritical religious leaders was selfish ambition and pride (manifested in the desire to be important) greed and lust for power all of these sinful desires are found in the bottomless pit of a selfish and prideful heart.

It was the Pharisees and priests that were Satan to Paul, they were the ones that tried to turn the people against him and kill him and acted as very aggressive adversaries against Paul, they were the ones withstanding and opposing the light and truth of the Gospel that Jesus had called Paul to proclaim. The word satan in the context of this story is a personification of the collective hypocritical power and stronghold that the Pharisees and the priest had in opposing the work of God and blinding the people to God’s love, grace, mercy and to His word.

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## Romans 16

### The God of Peace shall bruise Satan.

Romans 16:20 ----- 18 The God of peace shall bruise (crush) Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Prior to this verse Paul tells the Roman brothers and sisters in Christ to take note of those who are causing divisions and avoid them because they are not serving the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own selfish ambition and by their fair speeches are deceiving the hearts of the simple because their teachings are contrary to the Gospel of Christ. The expression, “God will bruise Satan under their feet” can mean the following two things: -

1. God will remove false teachers and those who are causing divisions from amongst them.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ will remove false teachers and those who are causing divisions from his Kingdom when he returns.

Either way Satan in the context of these verses embraces all those who cause divisions and offences and those who say they serve Lord Jesus Christ, but in reality are only interested in what they can get for themselves (i.e. money, importance, power, praise etc.) and by their fair speeches and good words deceives the hearts of the simple.

The original meaning of the word satan in the Hebrew and Greek language means one who opposes another in purpose or act. Those who cause divisions, teach a false or distorted Gospel and who are in the ministry for their own selfish gain are all opposing the work of God and therefore can all be called Satans.

**Deliver Him to Satan for the Destruction of the Flesh.**

1 Corinthians 5:5 ----- <sup>5</sup>you are to deliver this man to satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

This man was sleeping with his mother (it is most likely she was his half mother) (step mother), but either way it is behaviour that should not be tolerated amongst the Assembly of God. To understand Paul's statement, "Deliver this man to Satan" it helps to understand that the early church was not gathering together for two hours on a Sunday morning in a beautifully built religious building. During the era of the apostles brothers and sisters in Christ met in the homes of the faithful, there is no mention of religious buildings except the synagogues, but the leaders of the synagogues were against those who confessed Christ so they were driven from attending them.

The faithful in the family of Christ shared their lives and their work, they financially helped the poor and needy amongst them and were bonded as a natural family is bonded, they had strong friendships and most likely many worked together so the expression, "To be delivered over to Satan," means to be put out of fellowship it is called being delivered over to Satan because being put out of the church had enormous ramifications upon a brother or sisters life since it meant they were unable to fellowship with those they had bonded with and most likely shared a great part of their life with.

**Delivered to Satan:** since there are but two kingdoms, the Kingdom of God (the church) and the kingdom of the world, which is regarded as being under the control of Satan the words, "Deliver him unto Satan (v5) refers to putting the man out of the church and therefore out of God's Kingdom which is to subject him to the dominion of the other kingdom so the one who is put out is delivered to the power of Satan in that he is cast out of the house of God and delivered into the world.

In the book of Matthew Jesus himself said: -

- If a man refuses to listen to the church let him be to you as a Gentile (heathen in KJV) and a tax collector (publican in KJV) (Matt 18:17).

This means let him be put out of the privileges of the body of Christ, which is the church, outside of which satan is lord and master, but the goal is not that they would utterly perish (forsake their faith), but that by being put out they may regret their grossly wicked behaviour and repent and be saved to eternal life and everlasting glory.

**Destruction of Flesh, that his Soul might be Saved.**

The words, "The destruction of the flesh" does not mean that the man was to die under the infliction of the denunciation, for the goal was to recover him. It is evident that, whatever he suffered as the consequence of being put out, he survived it, and Paul in his second letter instructed the Corinthians to admit him again into their fellowship (2 Cor. 2:7). It is clear this punishment was designed firstly, to bring the man to repentance, since the words, "That his soul might be saved" means that he might be corrected, humbled, and reformed by being put out of the church, and secondly to protect the purity and preservation of those in the church since a little leaven has the potential to spread the ferment through a great lump (1 Cor. 5:6).

This means that the bad example of any person has the danger to spread and pollute the purity of others far and wide (i.e., one scabbed sheep infects a whole flock) this is the reason gross and scandalous sinners should be put out of the body of Christ, but never from vengeance or punishment, but always with motivation and hope that the offender will recover, repent and be saved not only from mortal ruin, but eternal loss so that they may be saved to eternal life.

To bring a person to repentance was the object of all true discipline carried out by the early church and in this instance it was effective, we know this because in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians regarding this man he wrote: -

- For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow so I beg you to reaffirm your love for him” (2 Cor. 2:6-8).

**NOTE:** some affirm that this man’s punishment was tortuous sickness’s inflicted on his body by apostolic miraculous power given by Paul to the Corinthian church, but there is no mention of any disease or sickness in this story and therefore this theory can only be viewed as a speculation added to this Paul’s words, “He may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow” show that this man was wounded not by sickness but by the loss of his fellowship with those who loved the Lord and who he obviously regarded as friends.

For further information see the following titles: -

- Hymenaeus and Alexander delivered to Satan. (1 Tim 1:20) (below).
- Some are turned aside after Satan (1 Tim 5:15) (below).

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## 1 Corinthians 7

### Lest Satan Tempt you for Your Incontinency.

1 Corinthians 7:5 ----- <sup>5</sup>Defraud ye not one another, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Incontinency means lacking restraint in sexual matters or engaging in extramarital sex. Paul cautions married couples not to deny each other of the sexual act of marriage because if this happens Satan may tempt one of the partners to go outside of the marriage to satisfy their sexual passion. Sex with a person who is not your married partner is adultery, the following verses show that adultery comes from the human heart: -

- Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies (Matt. 15:17-19).
- From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders (Mark 7:21-23).
- The works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (Gal. 5:19).
- Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. (James 1:13-14).

Matthew Mark Paul and James all agree that every man and woman is tempted, by their own lust, and that adulteries (sex outside of marriage) are the works of the flesh and come from within, out of the heart and are manifested in adulteries etc. Therefore the word satan in the expression, “Lest Satan tempt you not for your incontinency,” is the personification of a person’s own inward sinful sexual lust and desire that proceeds out of the human heart and manifests itself in adultery.

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## 2 Corinthians 2

### Lest Satan Should Get Advantage of Us.

2 Corinthians 2:11 ----- <sup>11</sup>Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Paul in this chapter is writing a letter to the Corinthian church and saying he does not want to come to them in the affliction, sorrow and tears that he was in when he wrote his first letter to them concerning the man who was have sex with his father’s wife (1 Corinthians 5) (it is most likely that she was his half mother) (step mother)

(1 Corinthians 5), but wants to visit them in joy. He then proceeds to tell the Corinthian church that the whole purpose for writing this second letter (v9) is to say that the man they put out of the church has suffered enough and it is now time for them to comfort and forgive him. Paul tells them whoever they forgive he will also forgive in the Lord Jesus Christ otherwise the man maybe overcome with great grief and sorrow, it is then that Paul makes the statement, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." In the context of this letter Satan's devices refer to the grief and sorrow that stem from unforgiveness, because unforgiveness leads to bitterness, hatred and revenge etc., which led to divisions, broken relationships and in worst case scenarios even murder.

The word satan in this verse embraces in its meaning every hurtful thought in the mind, every emotionally harmful attitude in the heart and every destructive outward action that are all a direct result of a person not being forgiven. Forgiveness is the key to stopping all of these harmful and hurtful thoughts and attitudes from getting a stronghold on a persons mind, their emotions and their heart. Satan in this verse is not only a word that embraces everything that is harmful and hurtful to the human mind, emotions and heart, but also embraces all the destructive outward actions that result from these harmful and hurtful thoughts and emotions.

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## 2 Corinthians 11

### **Satan is Transformed into an Angel of Light.**

2 Cor 11:14-15 ----- <sup>14</sup>And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Prior to this verse Paul says the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety and warns the Corinthians not to be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ because some will come preaching another Jesus and another Gospel and then says that even Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light so they shouldn't be amazed that false apostles and deceitful workers are also able to transform themselves into apostles of Christ.

The word satan in its original Hebrew and Greek language means one who opposes another in purpose or act. In this context it is a perfect personification of everything that is opposed to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and his teaching and can be seen as that influence within the flesh, (self, ego and pride) that deliberately resists the will and purposes of God for a persons own selfish ambition and gain manifested outwardly in false ministers of the Gospel who because they appear righteous and have great oratory skills are able to lead many away from the simplicity that is in Christ.

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## 2 Corinthians 12

### **A Thorn in the Flesh, the Messenger of Satan.**

2 Corinthians 12:7 ----- <sup>7</sup>And lest I (Paul) should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Thorn from Strong's Concordance literally means a sharp piece of wood and buffet literally means to maltreat and violently strike a person giving them blows with the fist, figuratively thorn carries the idea of conceit and pride. Some scholars believe Paul's thorn refers to a flaw in his eyes, his lack of oratory skill or some kind of illness in the body, but these do not fit the language of a messenger being sent.

The expression more likely relates to the opposition, persecution and beatings that Paul received from the hands of the Pharisees and priest for preaching the Gospel. Satan in the context of Paul's thorn in the flesh is the personification of the evil within the human heart that is in opposition to God's plans and purposes. This evil opposition was manifested toward Paul in violent persecution that came from the religious leaders who were opposed to him proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ.

The messengers sent by Satan refer to the men who were sent by the religious leaders in high places of authority, such as the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes. Satan in its original Hebrew and Greek language means one who opposes another in purpose or act, those who were opposing Paul and the message of Christ and who were sending out messengers to violently persecute him were the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes they are the satan in this story.

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## 1 Thessalonians 2

### Satan Hindered Us.

1 Thess. 2:18 ----- 18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but satan hindered us.

The term, "Satan hindered us" embraces in its meaning every evil attitude within in the human heart that is in opposition to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and anyone who proclaims the Gospel of Christ. This evil within the human heart was outwardly manifested in the beatings Paul received from the hands of the Pharisees and priest for preaching the Gospel. The original meaning of satan in the Hebrew and Greek language means one who opposes another in purpose or act which in Paul's life was the religious leaders of his generation the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes they are the satan that hindered him.

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## 1 Timothy 1

### Hymenaeus and Alexander, Delivered to Satan.

1 Timothy 1:20 ----- 20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Prior to this verse Paul warns Timothy that there are some who have wandered from the faith and who are teaching a different Gospel and making endless assertions with absolute confidence on things that are only speculations and only promote vain discussion. The names of two of these people are Hymenaeus and Alexander they desire to be teachers, but have no understanding of what they are saying or of the things that they make their confident assertions about. Paul tells Timothy that he has handed Hymenaeus and Alexander over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

To understand Paul's statement, "To be handed over to Satan" it helps to understand that the early church was not gathering together for two hours on a Sunday morning in a beautifully built religious building. During the era of the apostles brothers and sisters in Christ met in the homes of the faithful, there is no mention of religious buildings except the synagogues, but the leaders of the synagogues were against those who confessed Christ so they were driven from attending them. The faithful in the family of Christ shared their lives and their work they financially helped the poor and needy amongst them and were bonded as a natural family is bonded.

They had strong friendships and most likely many worked together so the expression, "To be Handed over to Satan," means to be put out of fellowship it is called being handed over to Satan because being put out of the church had enormous ramifications upon a brother or sisters life since it meant they were unable to fellowship with those they had bonded with and most likely shared a great part of their life with.

Obviously Paul's statement, "I have handed Hymeneus and Alexander over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme" does not mean that Paul delivered Hymeneus and Alexander to an evil demonic spirit creature named Satan to be instructed by him not to blaspheme since if such an evil creature did exist it would encourage Hymeneus and Alexander to blaspheme even more. It is almost certain that Hymeneus and Alexander were not open and bold blasphemers since they would then never have maintained a place in the church, but rather that they were blasphemers in the sense that they held doctrines which Paul regarded as

amounting to blasphemy; that is, doctrines which were in fact a reproach on the divine character of God. There are doctrines held by certain people that reflect a false image of the divine character of God, and because their teaching dishonours God's character it amounts to the same thing as blasphemy. Though a person may not be a blatant blasphemer in words they can be in their hearts through teaching false doctrines that misrepresent God and present him in an unloving light and present a false view of his nature. The spirit and manner may be different with which blasphemy is spoken, but the end result is the same since they both dishonour God.

**Delivered unto Satan:** in the Hebrew and Greek language the word satan means one who opposes another in purpose or act. This definition is a perfect fit for the world and everything in it that is opposed to God, the Lord Jesus Christ, his teaching and God's will, the expression, "delivered them to Satan" means that Paul has given them over to the world, since there are but two kingdoms, the Kingdom of God (the church) and the kingdom of the world, which is regarded as being under the control of Satan the words, "Deliver him unto Satan," refers to putting the men out of the church and therefore out of God's Kingdom which is to subject them to the kingdom of the world. This means that the statement the two men were put out of the church and delivered to the power of Satan carries the idea that they are put out of the house of God. In the book of Matthew Jesus himself said: -

- If a man refuses to listen to the church let him be to you as a Gentile (heathen in KJV) and a tax collector (publican in KJV) (Matt 18:17)

Jesus is saying let him be put out of the privileges of the body of Christ, which is the church, outside of which Satan is lord and master, but the goal is not that they would utterly perish, but that they may repent and be saved to eternal life and everlasting glory. Satan in this context is the world and everything in it that is opposed to God contrasted to the church and those within it that worship God and the Lord Jesus Christ. For further insights see the title, "Some are turned aside after Satan" (1 Tim 5:15) (below).

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## 1 Timothy 5

### Some are Turned Aside after Satan.

1 Timothy 5:15 ----- <sup>15</sup>For some are already turned aside after Satan.

The word satan in this verse refers to the world and everything in it that is opposed to God, the Lord Jesus Christ, his teaching and God's will. The world in this context is a perfect fit for Satan since in the original Hebrew and Greek language the word satan does not have a capital \*S\* and simply means one who opposes another in purpose or act which is a perfect picture of the unbelieving world which not only denies Christ and the existence of God but is also opposed to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. The expression, "Some are already turned aside after satan," means they have turned after the world, its ways and everything in it that is opposed to God.

From a heavenly view there are only two Kingdoms on earth the kingdom of the world (sometimes called the kingdom of man) and the Kingdom of God (also called the church and the body of Christ). The word satan is sometimes used as a symbolic name for the world because not only does the word satan mean an adversary, but when used in this sense carries in its full meaning everything that is opposed to God and His Kingdom including man's selfishness, pride, ego, greed and lust etc.

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## Revelations 2

### The Synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:9 ----- <sup>9</sup>I know thy (the church in Smyrna) works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of satan.



The blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, refers to those who think they are doing the Lords work and serving him but in actual reality are not, they are like the religious leaders of Jesus era the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes who had enormous religious power over the people and who believed they were great holy, religious leaders serving God, but Jesus called them vipers, serpents and hypocrites that is why their synagogue is called, "The synagogue of Satan."

In a few verses further on we are told that Satan's throne is in the city of Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-13). Therefore the synagogue of Satan is also going to be in some building (no-doubt excessively opulent) on earth where false and self serving ministers and priests of God who have enormous influence, authority and power over religious affairs and who oversee the people of God dwell.

In the context of these verses the synagogue of Satan applies to the false religious leaders who had the controlling power over the affairs of God during the time of the Smyrna church, but the title, "The synagogue of Satan" is not limited to Smyrna only it can apply to any false church, religious government or religious institution or city that has the power and authority to oppose and distort God's truth and the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Pergamos where Satan's Seat Is.**

Revelation 2:12-13 --- <sup>12</sup>And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; <sup>13</sup>I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satans seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Antipas was a faithful witness of the Lord Jesus Christ and one of the early Christian martyrs. It is clearly seen in these verses that Satan's dwelling place is in the city of Pergamos, this was because Pergamos was the city where those who proclaimed the name of the Lord Jesus Christ faced extreme persecution. The word Satan in the original Hebrew and Greek language means one who opposes another in purpose or act and that is why the word satan is a fitting name for the city of Pergamos. But the name Satan is not limited to the city of Pegamos it can be applied to any town or city that is in extreme opposition to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and all who follow him (i.e., a communist or Moslem countries etc.).

### **The Depths of Satan.**

Revelation 2:24-25 --- <sup>24</sup>But unto you (the churches) I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine (of Jezebel), and which have not known the depths of Satan as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. <sup>25</sup>But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

As many as have not this doctrine refers to sexual immorality. Prior to these verses Jesus told the church at Thyatira that he is against them because they tolerate Jezebel and her teaching. Jezebel was a woman who called herself a prophetess and who had great authority, influence and power over those in the church at Thyatira her teachings allowed for sexual immorality in the church.

The following verses show that adulteries proceed out of the human heart: -

- Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies (Matt. 15:17-19).
- From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders (Mark 7:21-23).
- The works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (Gal. 5:19).
- Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. (James 1:13-14).

Matthew Mark Paul and James all agree that everyone is tempted, by their own lust, and that sexual immorality is the works of the flesh come from within, out of the heart and are manifested in adulteries and unlawful sex etc. Therefore the expression, "The depth of Satan" refers to the ultimate depth of deception the human heart can sink to, meaning how far a person can fall away from the true teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. The depth of Satan" in the context of these verses not only refers to the doctrine of Jezebel that allows for unlawful sex in the Thyatira church, but also embraces those in the church who are actually practicing it.

**NOTICE:** Jesus does not tell those in the Thyatira who belong to Christ and are innocent of Jezebel's teaching to aggressively attempt to confront her or her devoted supporters, rather he simply tells them to stand and remain true to what they already have and endure until he returns. This is probably because Jezebel's influence and authority was so great in the Thyatira church and most likely in the city of Thyatira that if anyone did attempt to confront her and her loyal followers it would simply be in vain and only cause strife and contention. It would be like a small group of believers today trying to rise up against the Pope, the Vatican and its false teachings.

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### Revelations 3

#### The Synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 3:9 ----- <sup>9</sup>Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Jesus is speaking to a small group of believers who are being dominated and probably persecuted by false Jewish religious leaders who esteem themselves above those they consider common. These prideful Jews believed they are serving the Lord, but he says they are deceiving themselves and lie. The expression, "The synagogue of Satan" in the context of these verses refers to a synagogue that is ruled by prideful, self exalted religious Jewish leaders who look down on those who they consider common.

But the principal of the expression, "The synagogue of Satan," is not limited to the Jewish synagogues it can also be applied to any church in which the priests and those in leadership have tremendous authority and influence over those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and who say they are ministers of the Lord, but in reality are teaching doctrines totally contrary to the Gospel of the Christ.

It is called, "The synagogue of Satan," because those in leadership love the importance and praise they receive from their followers and the riches and glory that comes with serving God and though they appear to be doing the work of God they are simply serving their own selfish interests and ambition. The principal contained within the title, "The synagogue of Satan" can refer to any religious organization, institution or church on earth where false, corrupt and self serving ministers of God, who have enormous influence and the controlling power over the people of God dwell.

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#### Summary of Satan.

Satan in the Hebrew and Greek language does not have a capital \*S\* and simply means an adversary one who withstands, opposes and resists it is a word that has come to symbolize everything that is the total opposite to what is good, decent and right. In many verses of the Bible the word satan is often personified as the arch enemy of God. The New Testament says the works of Satan are evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication's, thefts, a false witness, blasphemies, covetousness, wickedness, deceit and lasciviousness. Pride, foolishness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulation's, wrath, strife, sedition's and heresies, envying, drunkenness, reveling, and such like.

The Bible tells us all of these dwell in the human heart and that they are all the works of Satan which shows us that Satans dwelling place must be in the human heart therefore the word satan is a personification of the evil dwelling in the darkness and depths of the human heart that influences a person's own lust, ego and pride etc., in rebellion against God or to act as an adversary to Christ and those who follow him.

The word satan is not limited in its meaning to only religious matters, Satan in its widest and fullest sense is a personification of everything that is opposed to what is good, (religious or secular) this is why the universal title, "The arch enemy of good." This influence can be manifested through an individual, a group, a government or leaders of nations that act as an adversary and enemy to everything that is good, decent and right.

**The evil one, the prince of the power of the air and the god of this world:** John tells us that the whole world lives under the influence and power of the evil one and Paul says unbelievers follow the prince of the power of the air because the god of this world has blinded their minds. The titles "the evil one" and the title "the prince of the power of the air" and the title, "the god of this world" all refer to the same power and influence that affects the human mind, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, they are simply different titles for the same entity which personifies the evil that rises up out of the darkness of the human heart and influences the world, this entity in most verses is called Satan or the devil (1 John 5:19) (2 Corinthians 4:4) (Ephesians 2:2).

**A simple example of the devil, the serpent and satan:** a young apprentice starts a new job, on his first day a fellow worker approaches him and says, all the boys are buying ecstasy drugs how many do you want. The young lad says sorry I don't take drugs it is against what I believe. This man is a serpent to the boy by tempting him to compromise his principals. The man goes and tells the rest of the workers, hey guys this new apprentice is a wowser a self-righteous religious nut now the man is a devil by being an accuser and slander.

Later in the same day one of the stronger men gets the boy by himself and says listen you little runt of a kid, don't pull that religious stuff on us. I'll mess your face up good, this man is a satan to the boy by being an opposer to what the young apprentice believes. The poor kid has confronted the serpent, the devil and satan all on his first day of work.

**A global view of Satan:** when the evil of all mankind worldwide that is opposed to God and against His will rises up out of the unseen depths of darkness in the human heart and influences the populations of the world against God it is not only seen from heaven as one collective global cloud of spiritual darkness, but also as an enormously evil powerful spiritual influencing force acting over the face of the earth as an opponent and an adversary against God, against Christ and against those who follow him and therefore this collective cloud of global evil spiritual darkness is personified and given the name: Satan.

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**For further information see the titles: -**

- Demons.
- Devil.

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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End