

Satan's Snares

Two extremes to avoid...

- Deny satan's existence
 - Satan is embarrassment to Catholic scholars.
- Delight in satan's enticements
 - **Satanic Bible:** “The seven deadly sins of the Christian Church are greed, pride, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth. Satanism advocates indulging in each of these ‘sins’ as they all lead to physical, mental and emotional gratification.”

Two extremes to avoid...

- Deny satan's existence
 - Satan is embarrassment to Catholic scholars.
- Delight in satan's enticements
 - **Satanic Bible:** “Hate your enemies with a whole heart, and if a man smite you on one cheek, SMASH him on the other! Smite him hip and thigh, for self-preservation is the highest law.”

Know the enemy

“...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices” – 2 Co.2:11

- Implies knowledge of . . .
 - Enemy himself (tactics...)
 - Enticements he uses (2 Co.2)
 - “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed” – Ja.1:14

I. Satan's character is revealed in his names

Names...

- Serpent: crooked, deceitful. Gn.3:1
 - 2 Co.11:3, deceive, cheat, cunning: one who uses his ability unscrupulously, resorting to trickery and slyness. Jn.8:44
 - Serpent deceived with words (Gn.3:4).
 - Ro.16:17-18, a final warning
 - Motive: cause division with contrary teaching.
 - Means: smooth words; flattering speech.

Names...

- Serpent: crooked, deceitful.
- **Belial (Beliar): useless, worthless.**
 - 1 Sm.2:12, *sons of Belial* (worthless men, base fellows).
 - Jg.19:22, men of Gibeah...*sons of Belial*
 - Personified in Jewish writings: belial / beliar = satan.
 - 2 Co.6:15, And what accord has Christ with **Belial**? [= choose for Christ, reject satan]

Names...

- Serpent: crooked, deceitful.
- Belial: worthlessness.
- **Satan: adversary**
 - 1 Chr.21:1, Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel
 - Job 1:6, Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them...

Names...

- Serpent: crooked, deceitful.
- Belial: worthlessness.
- Satan: adversary
- **Devil: slanderer**
 - Slanders God to man, Gn.3
 - Slanders man to God, Job 1-2
 - Slanders God to God, Mt.4

Names...

- Serpent: crooked, deceitful.
- Belial: worthlessness.
- Satan: adversary
- Devil: slanderer
- **Tempter**: 1 Th.3:5, For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.
 - Satan tempts through appetite / ambition (Mt.4; Gn.3:5)

Names...

- Serpent: cro
- Belial: worth
- Satan: adve
- Devil: sland
- Tempter: 1

Zebul resembles *zebel*, dung.
Change in pronunciation to show
scorn for satan (Beel-zebul)?
[Lk.11:15]

- **Beelzebub (Beelzebub):** lord of the *on-fly*
 - Mt.10:25, It is enough for a devil that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household
 - NT: **Beel** [OT **Baal**] // NT: **zebul** [OT **zebub**]

Names...

- Serpent: crooked, deceitful.
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- Satan: adversary
- Devil: slanderer
- Tempter: 1 Th.3:5
- Beelzebub (Beelzebul): lord of carrion-fly
- **Wicked one: his character and work.**
 - Mt.13:19, When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

Names...

- Serpent: crooked, deceitful.
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- Satan: adversary
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- Tempter: 1 Th.3:5
- Beelzebub (Beelzebul): lord of carrion-fly
- Wicked one: his character and work.
- **God of this world: 2 Co.4:4, whose minds the god of this age has blinded...**

Sacrifices, 1 Co.10:20

Sacrificing to demons (1)

1 Co.10:20 ...the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. [8:4]

Heathens thought they sacrificed to actual 'gods'; they ***actually sacrificed to demons.***

Dt.32¹⁶ They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.

Sacrificing to demons (2)

1 Co.10:20 ...the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

Christians who flee idolatry (14) do not commune with gods in heathen altars.

Apology of Socrates: same word play.

Defends himself against charge of atheism: he believed in a *demon*; and demons being sons of gods, he must believe in gods themselves.

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- **God of this world:**

Sacrifices, 1 Co.10:20

Light, 2 Co.11:14

Ministers, 2 Co.11:15

Doctrines, 1 Tim.4:1

Synagogues, Rv.2:9

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- **Prince of this world:** Jn.12:31...Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

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- God of this world
- Prince of this world: Jn.12:31...
- **Prince of power of air, Ep.2² ... and 6¹²
we wrestle against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

I. Satan's character revealed in his names

II. How does satan ensnare
so many people?

1. Contradicts Bible; confuses people

- Genesis 3:4
- Morality
- People directly contradict God on every subject

2. Misuses / Misapplies Scripture

- Mt.4:6, If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, and, In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

3. Hinders people from hearing gospel

- Mt.13:19, When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside
- Vatican: archives of the Inquisition – Index of Forbidden Books...lists Bible.
- They burned translations and other 'heretical' works, burned its translators, and excommunicated its readers.

4. Never stops tempting

- 2 Co.2:2...11, reverse encouragement
 1. Do not become a Christian
 2. If you do, remain in sin.
 3. If church withdraws, you are a phony...

5. Lies

- Jn.8⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it
- He lies, exaggerates to loosen moral standards...

6. Blinds minds

- 2 Co.4⁴, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them
- Nietzsche...

7. Disguises himself

- 2 Co.11⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!
 - Satan did not tell Eve the truth
 - He seemed sweet . . . pretended interest in her welfare and happiness

8. Signs

- 2 Th.2:9-12
- Birth of red heifer in Israel = rebuild Temple

9. Prowls like a lion

- 1 Pt.5⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
 - Persecution

I. Satan's character revealed in his names

II. How does satan ensnare so many people?

**III. The way out of
satan's snares**

Satan is our adversary

Lord is our advocate

1 Jn.2¹ My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

God provides for our victory over satan

2 Tim.2

21 Fill (as vessel) with every good work
(22, 24).

22a Flee (youthful) lusts. Gn.39

22b Follow (pursue) righteousness. Ph.3:14

23 Fight distractions. Lk.14:18-19

24-26 Fortify (edify) brothers...

26 Free ...satan catches people to do his
will, for their eternal destruction...