

Who Satan Is

I. Introduction

A. While there's questions mankind might have about Satan that Scripture doesn't answer, Scripture does answer everything we *need* to know about him. He is *real*, he is our adversary, and he is "the deceiver of the whole world." **Revelation 12:9**

II. Where Did Satan Come From?

- A. While the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit exist from everlasting to everlasting, other beings, including Satan, have been created by God through Christ. **Colossians 1:16**
- B. This doesn't mean God desired evil in His creation. Angels, though, like mankind, have "free will" to choose to obey God or not. As an angel, or at least some type of created spiritual being, Satan had the capacity to sin, and he *chose* this path. **1 John 3:8; 2 Peter 2:4**

III. Satan's Limitations

A. Because he is a created being, Satan is not all-powerful like God. His limitations have been proven time and again through Scripture. **Job 1:12; 2:6**

IV. Vicious, But Sly

- A. Satan's limitations don't diminish the seriousness with which we must take Satan. He is viciously seeking to devour us, as God illustrated by likening him to a roaring lion. **1 Peter 5:8**
- B. Though he's vicious, Satan is cunning and crafty. He doesn't put a big sign in front of temptation that shows him with horns and a pitch fork. Instead, he deceptively paints a picture of sin that is far different from its reality. **2 Corinthians 11:3, 14** (cf. **John 8:44**)

V. "Resist the Devil"

- A. Though Satan is vicious and cunning, he can (and must) be resisted. Part of the limitations God has placed on Satan is that he cannot *force* us to sin. Instead of "justifying" sin by claiming it cannot be helped, the Lord commands us to choose the righteous path. **James 4:7**
- B. Paul's response to his thorn in the flesh demonstrates the resolve we must have to choose God's will instead of Satan's when faced with temptation. **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**
- C. God in His supreme power supplies the "armor" we need to stand against the wiles of the devil. **Ephesians 6:11**

VI. Satan's Defeat

- A. God's power to supply what is needed to resist Satan demonstrates His ability to defeat the devil. Satan, in a sense, has already been defeated through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. **Hebrews 2:14**
- B. The full force of Christ's defeat of Satan will be realized on the Day of Judgment. Until that time, Satan continues to fight viciously against us, and we must vigilantly guard against the sin he promotes. Because of Christ, we have great motivation for such vigilance, and for confidently trusting that things will work out OK for us if we choose His side, rather than the devil's. **Revelation 12:10-11**