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**THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN**

**The Names of Satan:** We have already inserted some of the twenty-one most common identifying names of Satan (the adversary used 52 times in scripture). These are names descriptive of his conducts1 and character2, note the list and reference:

1. The devil3 – slanderer used 35 times 12. Beelzabub14 Prince of demons

 (Mt. 12:24)

1. The Prince of the Power of the Air4 (Eph. 2:2) 13. Belial – vile15 (II Cor. 6:15)
2. The god of this age5 (II Cor. 4:4) 14. The wicked one16 (Mt. 13:38)
3. The king of death6 (Heb. 2:14)15. The tempter17 (I Thess. 3:5)
4. The Prince of this world7 (Jn. 12:31) 16. The accuser of the brethren18

 (Rev. 12:10)

1. The ruler of darkness8 (Eph. 6:12) 17. The angel of light19 (II Cor. 11:14)
2. Leviathon9 (Is. 27:1) 18. A liar20 (Jn. 8:44)
3. Lucifer10 – light bearer illuminator (Is. 14:12) 19. A murderer21 (Jn. 8:44)
4. Dragon11 (Rev. 12:7) 20. The enemy22 (Mt. 13:39)
5. The Deceiver12 (Rev. 20:10 21. A roaring lion23 (I Pt. 5:8)
6. Appollyon13 – destroyer (Rev. 9:11)

**The Activities of Satan:** Satan is not lazy; he is very busy attempting to thwart God’s glory and gain his own. Deception24 is one of the devil’s greatest weapons and he is so deceptive he literally deceives himself. The Bible confirms the spirit filled believer25 can resist him (James 4:7) because “greater is he that is in me, than he that is in the world“ (Gal. 2:20). The spirit filled believer is guided by the scriptures which confirms (II Cor. 2:11) “lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

**Satan Imitates God:** While he is effective in opposition26 he is most effective in imitation27. Satan’s opposition is most obvious, but his deception enables him to use limitation. A false pastor who pretends to be a godly man while undermining Biblical doctrine, such as inspiration, preservation, and designation of scripture. False doctrine, immoral behavior, compromise, confusion (II Cor. 11:13-15)

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“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 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.”

**Names Are Descriptive and Definitive:** What the devil cannot do is duplicate, his conduct and character define him, that determines the names designated to him (liar, murderer, deceiver, destroyer…). Just as it defines his demons (fallen angels, evil spirits, seducing spirits, etc.). The Bible confirms “by their fruits shall ye know them.” For the true believer their fruits describe28 and define29 them (justified, righteous, born again, submissive, putting on the whole armor of God, and so forth). The book of James challenges us to confirm our identify as believers, not only by our words, but by our works and by our walk before God and man.

1. **Satan has a False Trinity:** We should clarify and confirm, he cannot replicate so he can only counterfeit30. The scriptures present **A Holy Trinity**. God the Father31, the first person, God the Son32, the second person; and God the Holy Spirit33, the third person of the Holy Trinity. Satan’s deceptive imitation is by this nature evil, ungodly, unholy, deceptive and distorted. Satan34 himself assumes to be the father, the Antichrist35 is likened to the Son and the False Prophet36 is likened to the Holy Spirit. (Rev. 13:2, 16:13).

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1. **Satan has his False Churches:** Synagogues of Satan, full of deception, they deny our Lord’s Deity, deny His blood atonement, the authority of scripture, the virgin birth, the second coming, believers baptism, unscriptural communion, false signs, gifts, false prophets, and worldly compromise. Cults, charismatics, contemporary compromising confusion, denominationally, even demonically, idol worship, Mariolatry, scientology, new age, and mystical. The Lord has His churches37 – Satan has His churches38, Holy vs. unholy, truth vs. error, good vs. evil, life vs. death, light vs. darkness.
2. **Satan has his False Doctrines:** We study Systematic Theology39 – our Great Doctrinal Themes of the Bible. Satan has he-ology - counterfeit40, evolution, communism, socialism, fascism, materialism, atheism and the other ism and schisms that manifest Satan’s false doctrines. Salvation by works, penance, purgatory, pedo baptism, baptismal regeneration, free love, sodomy, abortion, false gods, unholy living…
3. **Satan has his Mysteries:** There are many mysteries in the Bible. A mystery is an undisclosed41 or undiscovered42 plan, for example, (I Cor. 15) The Mystery of the Resurrection and Removal of the Saints we refer to as THE RAPTURE. Paul discloses the plan, millions of living Saints will leave this world alive, having never died, and ascend into the Heavens to meet the Lord in the air (I Thess. 4:13-18). In (I Cor. 14) we conclude Heaven is the destination and in order to go you must believe and be saved, then die, but (I Cor. 15) and the mystery in (v:51), without dying! We have a little insight into how it will work, revealed, but with the incarnation it’s still a mystery in many ways although we know it came to pass as planned. God has many mysteries, some revealed, and some are yet concealed. So, it should not come as a surprise, Satan has his mysteries too!

(II Thess 2:7) “The mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he bet taken out of the way.”

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1. **Satan has his Throne:** In the New Testament our Lord made **Capernaum** His headquarters, but in the Old Testament it was **Jerusalem** (II Kings 21:4). Satan also has his “headquarters” or seat of authority, throne (Gen. 11) it is Babylon43 – the Tower of Babel. It appears in the days of Ezekiel’s prophecy. Satan’s seat moved to Tyre44 (where we see God address Satan through the King of Tyre). In the New Testament Paul names Pergamos45 the chief seat of Satan and his synagogue (Rev. 2:13). It appears through the middle ages as the seat of Rome46 until (Rev. 18) when Satan’s seat returns to Babylon47 or Babylon turns to Rome! (Rev. 13:2)
2. **Satan has his Kingdom(s):** In (Lk. 4:6-7) Satan offers our Saviour a part and a place in his kingdom, this kingdom is as all Satan possess’ a figment of his imagination! (Rom. 13:10 The truth is God has lent Satan limited power48, possessions49 and places on earth50 to fulfill his purpose51 and God’s plan52. (Jn. 14:30; I Jn. 5:19) **note:** Satan is cast down, but not yet cast out, he is allowed the position and provision under limited power to perform the will of God and fulfill God’s plan.
3. **Satan has his Worshippers:** The unsaved53 in the Tribulation period who do his bidding (Rev. 13:4). False worshippers, seeking some measure of relief, but will find none. Today there are many who worship the way of wickedness/worldliness and some, intentionally, the wicked one. They reject the worship of God (Jn. 14:23, 24) as scripture describes and they choose Satan. God desires men to worship Him, demands the angels do, even demons must acknowledge God, if men will not worship God, they will worship Satan.

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1. **Satan has his Angels/Demons:** Minions, fallen angels, deceived by Satan, disobedient to God, 1/3 of the Angels of heaven. Millions? Tens of millions? Hundreds of Millions? (Mk. 5) one demon possessed man had six thousand demons in him alone! (Rev. 12:7) Host of Heaven, only God knows, size, shape, strength, stronghold.
2. **Satan has his Ministers:** (II Cor. 11:13-15) covered previously… they preach their false gospel54, even as Paul preached the true gospel55 (I Cor. 9:16)
3. **Satan has his Miracles:** In (Mt. 7:21-23) Jesus warns us of the devils devices56 – performing false miracles to mislead multitudes. In (II Thess. 2:9-10) it is revealed as a trick he uses in the Tribulation period. (Rev. 13:130 John tells us of Satan’s deceptive practice “great wonders, fire from heaven” in the sight of men. Satan’s sidekick, the Antichrist will do them as well in his power.
4. **Satan has his Hosts/Armies** = flowerers, workers of iniquity!57 (I Cor. 10:21) His armies are organized, and energized by Satan’s evil devices, empowered and enabled they assemble against believers, and in the Tribulation at Armageddon. (Is. 24:21) He is a counterfeiter, a cheap imitation – anti type, opposite, what does he do?
	* 1. **He sows tares among God’s wheat:** (Mt. 2:13) The parable is found in the good seed – believers, tares are unbelievers, fakers – bad seed, wolves in sheep’s clothing. Looks the same, but the seed is corrupt – no fruit! 58

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* + 1. **He sends forth false doctrine:** (I Tim. 4:1-6) Corrupt teaching – subtle but satanic, so much error in this age – note: preaching – teaching – extra biblical revelations.59
		2. **He perverts the Scriptures:** The devil seeks to divert our attention from the Bible, he distracts others then divides the churches, steals God’s word, switches truth with error, questions God’s word, out of context, new versions, alterations, misinterpretations, doubt.60
		3. **He hinders the word of God’s Servants:** (I Thess. 2:18) Any way he can, physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, financially! He is the adversary of all that is good and Holy, he desires to divide, to deter, to distract, even divert our efforts and ultimately to destroy.61
		4. **He resists the prayers of God’s Servants:** (Dan. 10:12-13) He cannot decide the fate of any prayer, but his deceptive tactics can discourage and deter people from praying, and delay answer to prayer if God allows. His attempts to defeat God’s children are thwarted by prayer, anything the devil can do to delay, or deter answers to prayer, he will do.62
		5. **He blinds men to the truth:** (II Cor. 4:4) Paul goes on in the next verse to confirm he preaches “Christ Jesus the Lord”, that is His lordship, His deity, His sovereignty, His authority and His Gospel. That is truth, and thy word is truth, Satan is a liar, he blinds men from the truth. (II Cor. 4:3) Satan desires men to remain “natural”” or unsaved-unregenerate and ultimately his servants bound by sin, but if they are saved Satan does not stop his attack. The devil deceives believers into living their lives after the flesh and not the spirit. The carnal or flesh driven believer is of little or no value to himself or anyone else spiritually speaking (no discernment, no direction). Satan cannot defeat the spiritual man (Gal. 2:20).63

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**Summary:** Let’s conclude with just an overview for our awareness of those things the devil does…

* + 1. **He steals God’s word from human hearts**: (Mt. 13:18-23) sower, seed, soil.
		2. **He accuses the believers before God** (Job 1:7-12, 2:3-6; Zech. 3:1) past.
		3. **He sets snares for men** (I Tim. 3:7; II Tim. 2:26) divert, distract, destroy.
		4. **He tempts men to sin** (Gen. 22:1) subtle- deceptive but determined.
		5. **H afflicts** (Job 2:7; Acts 10:38; II Cor. 12:7) physically – financially, emotionally…
		6. **He deceives** (Rev. 12:9, 20, 8:10) his desire is to deceive/counterfeit, cause confusion
		7. **He undermines the home – family – marriage** (I Cor. 7:3-5) nuclear family – function

**It was Satan who caused David to disobey God (I Chr. 21:1)**

**It was Satan who caused Judas to betray Christ (Jn. 13:2)**

**It was Satan who causes Peter to rebuke Christ, later to deny Him (Mt. 16:22-23, Jn. 13:38)**

**It was Satan who caused Ananias to lie to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3)**

**This is what the devil does, because of what the devil is!**