

The Angelic Conflict

3. Satan's Essence:

- A. Satan is known by a wide variety of names and descriptions that give insight into his person. "Satan" is a transliteration of both the Hebrew and Greek word that means "adversary," referring to his opposition to God.
1. Lucifer, meaning "light bearer" or "one who enlightens." Isa 14:12
 2. Anointed Cherub, meaning an special angel. Eze 28:14
 3. Serpent, referring to his guile and deceit. 2 Cor 11:3
 4. Dragon, referring to his ferocity. Rev 12:9
 5. Belial, meaning that which is worthless. 2 Cor 6:15
 6. Devil, meaning a slanderer or maligner. Rev 12:9
 7. Accuser, meaning a plaintiff in a lawsuit. Rev 12:10
 8. Evil one, referring to the nature of his plan. John 17:15
 9. Roaring Lion, referring to the viciousness of his attack. 1 Pet 5:8
 10. Enemy, referring to his opposition to Believers. 1 Pet 5:8
 11. King of Tyre referring to his arrogance. Eze 28:11
 12. Angel of light, referring to his disguise. 2 Cor 11:3
 13. Murderer (mankiller), referring to his attack on Adam. John 8:44
 14. Liar, referring to his twisting of truth. John 8:44
 15. Destroyer, referring to the effects he brings. Rev 9:11
 16. Beelzebub, lord of the flies, prince of the demons. Matt 12:24
 17. Prince of this world, referring to his domain. John 12:31; 16:11
 18. God of this world, referring to his worshippers. 2 Cor 4:4
 19. Prince of the power of the air, referring to his politics. Eph 2:2
 20. Spirit of disobedience, meaning the model for sin. Eph 2:2
 21. Father of lies, meaning his authorship of untruth. John 8:44
 22. Deceiver of the whole world, referring to future operations. Rev 12:9
 23. Tempter, referring to his ploys. Titus 3:5
- B. Satan's Origin:
1. He was created by the Jesus Christ. Col 1:16
 2. He was created perfect as an angelic pattern. Ezek 28:12
 3. He was a high ranking angel with an important role. Eze 28:13-15
- C. Satan's Person:
1. He possesses Self-Consciousness as evidenced by his use of the word "I." Isa 14:12-14
 2. He has a soul as evidence by his intellect, the ability to make decisions, show emotion, analyze situations and direct a course of action. Isa 14:12-14; Eze 28:15
 3. He is a finite being. Luke 22:31
 4. He is a material being who is normally invisible to man's perception. 2 Cor 12:7
 5. He is an angel, often referred to as a "spirit," indicating that there is also an immaterial part of his being. Matt 8:16-17; 10:1
- D. Satan's Nature:

1. Presently he has one fundamental nature and personality which is anti-truth. John 8:44
2. His character is now in total contrast to God's. Acts 26:18
3. Satan will compromise his character as he deems necessary. 2 Cor 11:14-15

E. Satan's Essence:

1. Compared to God's Infinity:
 - a. He was created, therefore not eternal, so he must be a finite being. Ezek 28:15
 - b. As a finite being his life must have been given and thus sustained by God, which in itself is a demonstration of grace.
 - c. He is incapable of creating anything for God is the First Cause and source of all life. Col 1:16
 - d. He is subject to time because one day his time will expire. Matt 25:41
2. Compared to God's Perfection.
 - a. He was created perfect as was all God's creation. Isa 45:18
 - b. He attacks everything from God that is perfect. 2 Cor 11:3
 - c. Satan's "standard" is to do whatever it takes to promote himself. John 8:44
 - d. Attacking the Perfect is a common tendency of created beings with volition and a Sin Nature. Cf Pharisees and Christ.
 - e. He is not immutable so his personality is seldom consistent and thus open to imperfection. Rev 12:10; Eph 6:11; 1 Pet 5:8
3. Compared to God's Omniscience:
 - a. His knowledge is acquired since God preceded him. Ezek 28:15
 - b. He would receive information both before and after his fall, thus he is not Omniscient. 1 Pet 1:12
 - c. He is a super genius by any standard of created being. Eze 28:12; 2 Cor 11:3
 - d. His knowledge is greater than man's for it includes a realm that is unseen to man.
 - e. He knows the future only through what God has revealed. 1 Pet 1:12
 - f. Being a finite creature, with a finite knowledge, he can only see the actual and consider the possible.
 - g. Thus, overt and observable actions play an important role in the resolution of the Angelic Conflict
4. Compared to God's Omnipotence and Sovereignty:
 - a. Satan is a powerful creature and all angels are more powerful than man. Eph 2:2; 2 Thes 2:9; 2 pet 2:11; Rev 13:2
 - b. His power does not approach the Omnipotence of God. 2 Thes 2:8
 - c. He seeks the Sovereign rule of man, indicating that he does not possess it. Rev 13:7-8
 - d. He wants to usurp the authority of God. Isa 14:12-14

F. Satan contrasted with mankind:

1. He is an unwavering liar who would only tell the truth if he thought it could get distorted. Gen 3:1-5 Cf John 8:44 Cf Matt 4

2. He is not faithful to man, seeking their worship and service to him. Matt 4:8-10; Rev 12:10
3. He does not accept the principle of grace because evil is an outgrowth of the rejection of grace and salvation by works. Gen 3:7
4. Mankind may share Satan's destiny by not believing in Jesus Christ. Matt 25:41

G. His Method of attack.

1. Counterfeit of the truth. 2 Cor 11:13-14
2. False gospels. Gal 1:6-8
3. False doctrines. 1 Tim 4:1-3
4. False ministers, prophets and evangelists. 2 Cor 11:3-4, 13-14
5. A false communion table called idolatry. 1 Cor 10:13-21
6. False brotherhood and fatherhood concept. John 8:44
7. The hindrance of communication God's Word. 1 Thes 2:18
8. Accusations of believers. 2 Cor 2:10-11; Rev 12:9-10
9. Encouragement of mental sins such as worry. 1 Peter 5:6-9
10. He seeks to confuse God's Viewpoint, being a director of disorder. Jas 3:15-16; Heb 12:1-3; 1 Cor 10:11; Jer 17:5-7
11. He uses man's fear of death. Heb 2:14-15; Psa 23:4
12. He blinds man with the temptations of the world. 2 Cor 4:1-4

H. His systems of Anti-Theistic thought:

1. Atheism which says there is no God and leads to Nihilism which is lack of belief in anything. Hedonism, the love of pleasure, is an outgrowth of this. Cf 1 Cor 15:32
2. Agnosticism which answers the question "Does God exist?" with "I don't know." Cf Rom 1:20
3. Evolution. Cf 2 Pet 3:3-4
4. Polytheism claims that there are many gods with attributes and functions spread out. Cf Deut 6:4
5. Idealists say that everything is getting better. Cf Heb 1:10-12
6. Representational Realism says that everything that is in existence is made of material, so if it can't be perceived through the five senses then it doesn't exist.
7. Pantheism says that God and the universe including nature are identical and thus is deserving of the deepest reverence. Cf Rom 1:25
8. Deism says that God created everything perfect, but at the fall of man ceased to have anything else to do with His creation, thus there is no need for faith or organized religion.
9. Positivism says that authentic knowledge is that which is based on experience of the senses and positive verification. It is found in the ancient Greeks and has been recurrent throughout history.
10. Monism says since the universe is really just one thing, despite its many appearances, it is one god with many manifestations through different religions.
11. Dualism. This is the Yin-Yang philosophy that says the universe is half-good and half-evil and that they are in a never-ending battle.
12. Pluralism says that there are as many worlds as there are minds to make them, so you are really a figment of your own imagination.
13. Humanism says that man is the highest being and therefore god so man must solve all its problems.