### Satan Loses—Every Single Time

Someone commented on one of our articles about Satan. They said that many people, both believers and non-believers, feel that Satan holds the upper hand in life over Christ. Many reasons exist that could lead one to believe the devil has the world in his hands. Nothing could be further from the truth. What humanity witnesses on a day-to-day basis as Satan winning, I'll provide some additional proclamations that would challenge the notion. I wouldn't say he's winning by any means. He's not even losing.

In fact, Satan lost. When? First, he lost when he rebelled against the Living God. That's the first "L." The second huge loss took place through Jesus Christ, when He died on the cross at Calvary. Jesus snatched the keys of death and Hades from Satan. With that, people now have a way to access God's peace and intimacy through the risen Savior. Then why does it seem like the devil has the upper hand in life? It seems that way because (1) he knows he has little time left (Revelation 12:12) in influencing this side of eternity, and (2) the devil remains consistent on his path of destruction (John 10:10; Job 1:7, 2:2).

Some may ask, "Why doesn't God do something about what's happening in the world?" He did. First, let's remember that Jesus Christ reigns as Lord over all things. Second, after His death and resurrection, Jesus sent the world His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, or God the Spirit, the third Person of the Triune Godhead, holds a distinct function on earth. So today, Jesus lives among us through the Holy Spirit, but only through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior does His Spirit live in us. The Living God sometimes chooses to work through people, sometimes alongside people, and other times outside of the influence of people.

For example, a Christian, having the Holy Spirit living in

them, can demonstrate God's love and forgive the same way Jesus did. The Lord can then empower or work *upon* this same Christian (because teaching and preaching are spiritual gifts) to preach a sermon on love and forgiveness. The Holy Spirit, through the Christian, then *convinces* listeners (by working *upon* the heart) to come to faith in Christ by allowing Him *in* their hearts to believe. Yet, the Lord, in His omnipotence, works self-sufficiently to wake the Christian and the listeners up, who depend on God to see the new day. Only then can the Christian love and forgive like Jesus, preach the Gospel, and the listeners hear the message to consider eternal life.

With that said, God provided enough to the world to ensure the world looks the way it should, despite the existence of Satan and His influence in the world. The Lord God gave us Himself. In the book of Genesis, the Lord told Cain to do and live right, while exposing a tactic of sin. God told Cain that sin "crouches" at his door (Genesis 4:7). Sin doesn't display itself as a loud and formidable opponent. Comparable to 1 Peter 5:8, sin, like Satan, takes a clandestine approach to trap and devour the lives of people. It desired to control Cain's life, but God commissioned Cain to master and control sin's advances. The Bible also tells us to resist and flee from sin (1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Timothy 2:22, James 4:7). Today, sin holds an attractive appeal to the eye of those mastered by sin. Rejecting Jesus Christ and the Bible also holds significant popularity. Society encourages sin. The media aims to normalize it. People make excuses for it. The world embraces it.

Sin seems and feels good until it leaves you empty, left to address the dire consequences or irreparable damage, ones that can take years to repair if even possible. But that does not matter to those who have handed their calling from God to take dominion on the earth over to Satan. What Jesus rejected in the wilderness, the world has freely accepted. Those in

submission to the flesh and its desires can only crave the wrath placed on the flesh after the Fall in Eden—to surely die and return to the dust (Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:19).

So, when we see a world that seems like Satan is winning—he's not. The world continues and aims to find value in digging itself into the same hellhole that Satan and his demons put themselves in and will not get out of. Satan isn't winning. For every prince answers to a king—and Satan still answers to the King of kings. Yet, despite Jesus giving us everything we need to master sin and overcome Satan, the world, unfortunately, has decided that it's best that they, not Christ, surrender and bow to this defeated foe. Remember, Satan always broadcasts a counterfeit reality. Jesus Christ has the victory now and forevermore.

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# Satan: The Opposition, Not the Equal Opponent

Terrence Harris reminds us why Satan and Jesus are not equally-matched enemies.

My heart goes out to people who believe Satan is the equal opposite of Jesus Christ.

He is not.

The Lord God created Lucifer along with all the angels in heaven.{1} Lucifer became

Satan through his own pride, when he opposed God with the very gifts God gave him. Satan was so impressed with his own beauty and wisdom, I guess in his mind that made him a qualifying

contender for God's throne. {2} But obviously (well, not as obvious to demons, apparently), Satan was no match for the Almighty. A third of the angels followed him in his rebellion, while two-thirds remained loyal to the Lord. {3}

So the Lord stripped Lucifer of his glory, along with the other rebel angels, and threw them out of heaven down to the earth. {4} Since then, Satan and his demons have wreaked havoc. Now, the media often portrays them as having more authority than they truly possess. You see these movies showing a priest fidgeting with a cross and holy water facing a demon-possessed person that boldly declares, "You have no authority over me." To that point, scripture actually gives a similar example. In Acts 19:13–16, the sons of Sceva tried to cast out demons "in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches." The Bible says the demon replied, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" Then the possessed man overpowered them, beating them and sending them away naked and wounded.

This is a reminder: It's not enough to just know about Jesus; Satan and his demons know about Jesus. Satan and demons can read the Bible too. Satan tempted Jesus with a Bible verse in the wilderness, one that many Christians may not even know where to find. However, the true authority is in knowing Jesus and Jesus knowing you. Knowing Christ—instead of just knowing about Him or just knowing scripture—the intimacy with the Word of God-gives birth to godliness that pleases the heart of the Father. Apart from Christ, humanity is "dead in trespasses and sins" and follows "the prince of the power of the air." [5] But for the blood-bought believer, the story is entirely different. Those who are filled with God's Spirit, who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, who believe He died for their sins, rose by the power of the Holy Spirit, and now sits at the right hand of the Father {6}—these are the ones who stand in the Lord's authority and victory.

So the believer doesn't face the demonic realm alone. We stand in and by the authority of Christ Jesus. Scripture assures us that "Greater is He Who is in you than he who is in the world." {7} Through Christ, we are more than conquerors. {8} Satan is the opposition, but never the equal opponent. The living God dwells within His people, and by His Spirit, they walk in victory and authority over the powers of darkness.

#### **Notes**

- 1. Ezekiel 28:13-15
- 2. Isaiah 14:12-15
- 3. Revelation 12:4
- 4. Luke 10:18
- 5. Ephesians 2:1-2
- 6. Romans 8:11; Hebrews 1:3
- 7. 1 John 4:4
- 8. Romans 8:37

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## The Truth About Satan and Demons

Terrence Harris exposes the growing influence of Satan and the demons in the world today.

Today we live in a world that gravitates more and more toward demonic influences, particularly what we hear from the entertainment industry: the media, the music, and everything else in between. We see these ritual-like performances and symbolic messages by artists and entertainers showing up everywhere that give antichrist vibes, {1} encouraging society to live for themselves, worship themselves, and telling people they can "do and live however they want." {2}

As Christians, we must ask: why would anyone choose to live in submission to demons and Satan himself?{3} From Scripture, we clearly see the habits and motives of these fallen and corrupted beings. We learn what they think of humanity,{4} what their possession of people looks like.{5} They oppress and seek to destroy anything that reflects God's image and the work of His hands.{6} The Bible also tells us where they come from,{7} their methods,{8} and that their end is coming—praise be to God.{9}

So why would anyone make allegiance to something that hates them? The demonic realm hates God, including His creation. They cannot destroy the Living God, so people are the next viable option.

Some may say, "Well, I have a good life, I have everything I need, never prayed to anyone nor begged for anything. I did the work to get to where I am. That tells me that I never needed God." And this is the position the devil wants you in.{10} Like Peter and Judas, Satan aims to expose and exploit our weaknesses{11}—to kill, steal, and destroy our lives{12}—at an opportune time.{13} God owns the breath in our bodies.{14} Our pride regarding life can blind us to this truth, taking God's grace, love, and patience for granted.{15} Satan banks on us declaring that we are "the masters of our fate and the captains of our own souls"{16}—minimizing Jesus to a non-essential.

And just like the devil and his angels, the messaging from the entertainment and media worlds tempts humanity to sin against God—right along with them.{17} How? Disguising sin and its consequences with things that entice the natural senses.{18} Some want fame and fortune, some desire success, power, and influence. Having only the natural desires of humanity in mind, they presume to offer people these in exchange for our God-given thoughts, talents, gifts, resources, etc. Everything the Living God gives us, Satan wants for his purposes,{19} while excluding the One who gave us life from our lives.{20}

My goal is not to glorify demons but to expose them. {21} It's time for Christians to pull back the veil and expose the truth: people who want to live in submission to Satan and his demons are literally asking for the same coming judgment of God—a judgment not originally meant for people. {22}

Every believer must understand these biblical truths concerning Satan and demons in order to navigate a world where demonic influence seems both rampant yet clandestine. But more importantly, I want to point to the greater reality: victory, true life, and authority belong only to those who place their faith in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. {23} Jesus holds all power and authority over every created being—forever and ever. {24}

### **Notes**

- 1. 1 John 2:18
- 2. Judges 21:25
- 3. Ephesians 6:12
- 4. John 8:44
- 5. Mark 5:2-5
- 6. Genesis 1:27; 1 Peter 5:8
- 7. Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:7-9
- 8. 2 Corinthians 11:14; John 10:10
- 9. Revelation 20:10
- 10. Luke 12:16-21
- 11. Luke 22:3-4, 31
- 12. John 10:10
- 13. Luke 4:13
- 14. Acts 17:25
- 15. Romans 2:4
- 16. William Ernest Henley, *Invictus*
- 17. Genesis 3:1-6; Revelation 12:9
- 18. James 1:14-15; 1 John 2:16
- 19. Matthew 4:8-10
- 20. John 1:3-4
- 21. Ephesians 5:11

- 22. Matthew 25:41
- 23. Romans 8:37; 1 John 5:4-5
- 24. Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 2:15

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# "When Did People Start Worshiping Yahweh?"

What is the history/origin of belief in Yahweh? I am being told that Yahweh was one of many gods initially believed in by the Canaanites, and eventually the followers were better at presenting Yahweh as the God of Israel?

First, let's define worship. Worship is the act of expressing reverence, devotion and adoration towards God. Rituals, singing songs, prayers and ceremonies represent the act of worship.

Next, before answering your question, I'm convinced a critical explanation of scripture will suffice to help add credibility. The book of Nehemiah states that God made the heavens and the host of heavens (9:6). The heavens, in this passage, refers to the sky or the expanse that is above the surface of the earth. The term "heaven of heavens" refers to everything outside of the earth's atmosphere. These are the planets, galaxies, etc. This passage also mentions the singular word host which means "the stars" or "celestial bodies." Now, I do not want to confuse you, because the plural word "hosts" apply to God's angel armies. With that, the passage of scripture concludes, "and the heavenly host bows down before You"{1}. Some translations state, "...the heavenly host worship You." If we take this into account, we could say that according to Genesis

1:1, worship regarding nature started after Yahweh created it. According to Deuteronomy 33:27, the eternal attribution of the God of Israel indicates the worship of Him pre-exists the creation of the earth through the worship of the angels in heaven (Isaiah 40:28, Romans 1:20, Revelation 4:8).

The name YHWH (Yahweh) first appears in Exodus 3:14 when God made Himself known to Moses: "I AM WHO I AM. . . . Say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you." [3] This links to "The Real Formal Full Personal Name of God" [3] in Exodus 6:2-3. The name reflects His redeeming acts regarding His chosen people. It parallels the need of the Hebrews during their captivity in Egypt thus largely translated as "I am/will be present."

Researchers have yet to conclude whether Canaanites worship paralleled the worship YHWH of the Israelites. The suggestions indicate the Canaanites may have used the name Yahweh in worship along with other deities, yet with no evidence of true relationship with the God of Moses—like using the word "god" today in a broad sense rather than using "The LORD God." We do know that the Yahweh of the Israelites responded to Moses and to the cry of the Israelites. We cannot say the same for the Canaanites. Because no evidence of Yahweh responding to Canaanite worship exists, this could indicate that Canaanite worship lacked value.

### **Notes**

- 1. New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Nehemiah 9:6.
- 2. New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Exodus 3:14.
- 3. Martin A. Shields and Ralph K. Hawkins, "YHWH," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

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