

## Satan – Week 1

Satan has been given a number of names over the years. The word satan in Hebrew translates as ‘the Adversary’. Other names for Satan include:

1 Peter 5:8 -	The devil
Genesis 3:1 -	The serpent that led Eve astray
2 Kings 1:3 –	Beelzebub or Baal-Zebub
Isaiah 14:12 -	Lucifer
Eph. 6:12 (NKJV) -	Prince of Darkness
Eph. 2:2 -	Prince of the power of the air
Rev. 12:7-9 -	the Dragon

You may have heard the name, Mephistopheles. This was a name used by Faust in his tragedy about making a deal with the devil.

Lucifer is the Bible name for one of God’s archangels who rebelled against God and was cast to the earth where he does his work as Satan or the devil. (Isaiah 14:12-17) In Isaiah 14:3, Isaiah appears to be talking about the king of Babylon. By verse 12, he has transitioned to be speaking of Satan.

“It is true that the king of literal Babylon shined brightly among the men of his day, and fell as hard and as completely as if a man were to fall from heaven. But there was a far more brightly shining being who inhabited heaven, and fell even more dramatically - the king of spiritual Babylon, Satan. (Guzik)

Years ago in our study of Daniel (10:13), the archangel Michael was the protector or prince of Israel. Isaiah refers to Lucifer was the protector or prince of Babylon. Later in Chapter 10 of Daniel we are reminded that even though there are physical battles going on here on earth, there are also spiritual battles also happening. Verses 20-21 of Daniel 10 tell us that there are more of these archangels battling in the spiritual realm.

The name ‘devil’ comes from the Greek “diabolos” meaning ‘slanderer’. It is also the root from which we get our English word ‘diabolical’.

All of the evil that we have seen since the beginning of man has a name, or many names as we have seen, it is Satan. He is completely evil. As righteous as God is, Satan is that evil. He seeks to rule as God in the spiritual realm. We see this desire in Isaiah 14:14, where Satan has said that *“I will make myself like the Most High.”*

When you first read Ezekiel 28:11-19, it sounds like Ezekiel is talking about the king of Tyre but as we look further into these verses, we realize that it could also be about Satan.

Tyre was a vile place known for getting rich and then exploiting its neighbors. Ancient writers say that Tyre was a “city filled with unscrupulous merchants”. It was filled with religious idolatry and sexual immorality. By verse 13, you realize that the king of Tyre is being compared to Satan. The king would not have been in the Garden of Eden. He was not a Cherub standing guard. He could not have been booted out of Heaven. Ezekiel had to be talking about Satan.

Isaiah 45:7 says “The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.” It sounds like God pours out evil.

Guzik on Isaiah 45:7 – “But God has no opposite. Satan is not and has never been God's opposite. There is one God. God is not the author of evil; evil is never "original," but always a perversion of an existing good. Yet God is the allower of evil, and He uses it to accomplish His eternal purpose of bringing together all things in Jesus (Ephesians 3:8-11 and 1:9-10). If God could further His eternal purpose by allowing His Son to die a wicked, unjust death on a cross, then He knows how to use what He allows for His eternal purpose.”

So the Bible teaches two things about evil. First, evil has a name and it is Satan. Second, our battle against evil is a spiritual one. Paul had realized we are in a spiritual battle before he wrote the letter to the Ephesians. He warned us and the Ephesians. He said in Ephesians 6:12 that our battle wasn't against flesh and blood but it was against “*the rulers of this darkness, the powers of this darkness, the world forces of this darkness and the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*”

“He can and will attempt to drag you down into such deep bondage that you will lose your joy in living. Some may call this bondage oppression, depression, or addiction. If the devil can pull you into bondage, you will have no peace, no zest for living, and perhaps even no will to continue living. You will struggle continually with desires that are not met, drives that are not satisfied, dreams that are not realized, and a destiny that is unfulfilled. The devil will do his utmost to completely destroy anything that is essential for abundant life.” (Stanley)