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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 170 (NT SECTION)

A. Brief Review

He is able [lit., powerful (we get our word *dynamite* from this word)] **to help** [lit., “to run toward those who cry out”] **us when we are being tested** [lit., when we are tempted to “give up on Jesus or our faith”].

2 Cor 9:8 • Eph. 3:20-21 • Heb. 7:25 • Jude 1:24 • Dan. 3:17 • Rom 4:21 • Heb 5:7 • Rom. 16.25

He Maketh No Mistake by A. M. Overton

My Father's way may twist and turn, My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know, He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray, My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead For He doth know the way.

Though night be dark and it may seem, That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him, He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see, My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust, And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift, And plain it all He'll make,
Through all the way, though dark to me, He made not one mistake.

B. Q and A

Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death.

– Thomas Brooks

The Devil takes no holiday; he never rests. If beaten, he rises again. If he cannot enter in front, he steals in the rear. If he cannot enter at the rear, he breaks through the roof or enters by tunneling under the threshold. He labors until he is in. He uses great cunning and many a plan. When one miscarries, he has another at hand and continues in his attempts until he wins.

– Martin Luther

1. Where did Satan come from and why did he fall?

Two principal passages of Scripture reveal Satan's origin and the beginning of the invisible war: Isaiah 14:12-19 and Ezekiel 28:11-19. These two texts describe his original condition in heaven, his sin, and his fall. They chronicle Satan's creation, corruption, and condemnation. Isaiah 14 parallels Ezekiel 28 in at least two ways. First, Satan is pictured in both texts as the ultimate power behind an evil human king—the prince of Tere, an early king of Babylon. Second, both passages identify pride as Satan's original sin. Isaiah 14:13-14 is often referred to as the five “I wills” of Satan. Inexplicably, he pitted his will against the will of God:

- “I will ascend to heaven.” Satan wanted equality with his Creator.
- “I will raise my throne above the stars of God.” The stars of God are other angels. Satan wanted to be above all creation and receive its worship.
- “I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.” The mount of assembly is usually equated with the place where God rules.
- “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.” Clouds often symbolize the glory of God in Scripture. Satan wanted the glory due to God alone.
- “I will make myself like the Most High.” Satan wanted to replace God.

In short, Satan's desire was to possess God's creation and be the sole authority over it. He tried to go up but was cast down. I love what Erwin Lutzer notes, “*His future was gambled in a slot machine that paid no dividends.*”

I would summarize the “talking points” of these passages as follows:

1. An angel was created that “fell” because of pride—his name is not Satan.
2. He was created perfectly.
3. He held a high position, possibly the highest position under God.
4. He badmouthed God to the other angels to entice them to join him in a rebellion.
5. He sinned by becoming filled with pride.
6. He spearheaded a revolt against God in Heaven.
7. He was cast down by God.

2. Why does God allow the Satan to exist?

Ultimately and unfortunately, the Bible does not give us any specific answers to this question. We are not told the answer to the many "why" questions that we have. We do know that according to Scripture, God created all things, including angels (Colossians 1:16). God is holy and sinless, so all angels were created holy and sinless as well. It is critical to remember that God did not technically create Satan or demons. God created a beautiful and anointed cherub and a host of perfect, unfallen angels. The anointed cherub led a rebellion against his Creator, resulting in his fall and the fall of one-third of the angelic host (Revelation 12:4). But the question still remains, why did God allow this to happen? God is omniscient, so He knew what would happen. And He is sovereign, so He could have prevented it from happening. *Why didn't He?*

This is one of the most difficult questions to answer, along with a similar question—why does God allow suffering and evil in the world? In some ways we can't fully answer these questions, yet, in a broad sense we can know that in some way the presence of Satan and demons serves to glorify God; that is, to make Him known or put Him on display. God allows Satan to exist for sovereign reasons, many of which are undoubtedly known only to Himself. But we can rest in the fact that God is infinitely wise and infinitely loving and that He is working out His plan—the best plan to bring maximum glory to Himself. A mentor of mine, Dr. Paul Powell says, "God is in the business of sustaining, not explaining." The bible does promise that in Heaven "all things will be known." (Luke 8:17, NLT -¹⁷ *For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.*) Remember, answers don't heal our hearts. Answers to the "Why Questions" don't bring healing to our hearts in the moment of grief or confusion. Again, God will not always explain but He will always sustain!

We know that at the end of the age, God will defeat Satan at Armageddon. (Rev. 16:16; 19:11-20:3 and Rev. 20:7-10.) We can rejoice that by trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, we can live in holiness someday with Him – away from the evil of this fallen world, numerous temptations and the fear of eternal punishment. God can and will fix this!

3. Why does Satan have power today?

2 Corinthians 4:4, NLT -⁴ *Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.*

I believe Satan is the god of this world and has power because "we" gave him that authority over us. He is the idol we worship. He is the deceiver we listen to. He is the source of continued shame in our lives. He is the reason we are filled with fear and doubt. He is the one we are listening to and focused on. Satan is the "god" to so, so many. He has power because we've given him that power. His power is greater than us—unless we have Christ in us. (1 Jn. 4:4)

4. What will Satan be doing in the end time?

1. He will assume power over the world and make a false peace treaty with Israel.
2. He will lead the false, unholy trinity (Rev. 13:2,11-12; 16:13).
3. He will mercilessly persecute the Jewish people (Rev. 12:13-15).
4. He will know that his time is short, so he will pour out his wrath on the earth (Rev. 12:12).
5. He will accuse God's people before the throne (Rev. 12:10).
6. He will deceive the world (Rev. 12:9; 20:8,10).
7. He will gather the armies of the earth to Armageddon (Rev. 16:13-14).
8. He will be bound in the abyss for 1000 years (Rev. 20:3).
9. He will be released from the abyss and organize one final revolt against God (Rev. 20:7-10).
10. He will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

5. Why does Satan so hate the Jewish people?

The Jewish people have a long and storied history, having survived repeated persecution and assaults. The ultimate source of the opposition against Israel, according to Scripture, is not just prejudice—it's Satan. Revelation 12 pulls back the veil and shows us the real power behind all anti-Semitism. The Bible says that Satan is the archenemy of the Jewish people and of Jesus, their Messiah. In response to Satan's war on the Jewish people, God has appointed Michael the archangel as the protector of Israel. Some have called him the "guardian angel of Israel." In Daniel 12:1, Daniel is told, "Michael...stands guard over the sons of your people." When Satan failed to prevent the Messiah from coming, he tried to kill Christ Himself. Satan tried to destroy Him right after His birth through the evil of King Herod (Matt. 2:13-16; Rev. 12:1-5). When this failed, he inspired the Jewish and Roman leaders to kill the Son of God. However, he failed to factor in the resurrection of Christ. Satan couldn't prevent the Messiah from coming (Plan A) or destroy Him (Plan B), so he will continue trying to destroy the Jewish people, over whom the Messiah is to rule (Plan C), and Satan also tries to deceive and prevent others from following Christ as Messiah (Plan D).

6. When are we most like Satan?

Obviously, when we sin, we are most like Satan. I do believe that when we lie and when we are filled with pride (or, when humility is absent) we most resemble the Devil. Since Satan is the god of this world, I believe Satan is seeking to accomplish six things in every life:

1. Satan wants you to doubt God's word. (Gen. 2 and Num. 23:19)
2. Satan wants to paralyze you with fear. (2 Tim. 1:7; Ps. 34:4; 2 Cor. 11:3)
3. Satan wants to silence you from sharing the Gospel. (Rom. 1:16)
4. Satan wants you to live in shame. (1 Jn. 1:9 and Rom. 8:1)
5. Satan wants you to worship an idol. (Ex. 20:3-6)
6. Satan wants you to be deceived and distract you. (2 Tim. 4:3-4)