

Survey of Bible Doctrine written by Dr. Charles Ryrie
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Chapter 5: The Doctrine of Satan, Week 2: What Does Satan Do?

I. Satan Opposes God's Plan of Redemption

A. From the Garden to the Cross

- Satan deceived Eve and Adam disobeys God (Genesis 3).
- First promise of the Messiah (Genesis 3:14–15).
- Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan (Hebrews 2:14).

B. Satan Attacked Jesus

- Attempted murder through Herod (Matthew 2:16).
- Worked through Peter's misunderstanding (Matthew 16:16–23).
- Direct temptation (Matthew 4:1–11).

C. Satan's Human Instruments

- Religious leaders (John 8:12–44).
- Judas Iscariot (John 13:18–27).
- Uses religion, politics, betrayal, and temptation.

II. Satan Deceives the Nations

- Counterfeit world system (Revelation 12:9; 20:3).
- Demonic influence over rulers (Daniel 10:13, 20; Romans 13:1–3).
- Final deceptions (Tribulation, Gog and Magog) and judgment (Revelation 16:14; 19:1–21; 20:7–10).

III. Satan Blinds Unbelievers

- Blinds unbelievers' minds to the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4; Luke 8:12).
- Promotes counterfeit religions:
 - Works righteousness
 - Legalism, License
 - Atheism, Polytheism
- God provides one Savior—Jesus Christ.

IV. Satan Attacks Believers

- Tempts believers to sin (Acts 5:3, 8–9).
- Accuses believers (Revelation 12:10; 1 John 1:8, 10).
- Hinders God's work (1 Thessalonians 2:18).
- Spiritual warfare is real (Ephesians 6:12).
- Sows confusion (Matthew 13:38–39).
- Promotes "good" over God's best (Matthew 26:6–13; John 12:1–8).

V. Satan Counterfeits God's Plan

- God's Law is good (1 Timothy 1:8).
- The Law cannot save (Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:16).

VI. God's Plan Cannot Be Thwarted

- The Cross and Resurrection fulfilled God's purpose and provides for Satan's defeat.
- Psalm 22:12–18; Isaiah 53.

VII. Our Confidence as Believers

- Satan may oppress, but cannot possess believers.
- Satan acts only as God permits.
- The Holy Spirit is greater than Satan (1 John 4:4).
- God never tempts anyone (James 1:13–14).
- God provides victory over temptation for believers (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- Stand firm through God's Word, God's Spirit, and God Himself.

Conclusion: Satan counterfeits, but Jesus fulfills. God's victory is certain.