

## Hidden in Plain Sight

Recap:

Week 1 (Jesus' invitation to engage in the ways and warfare of heaven)

Week 2 (The earth mirrors what happens in the heavens and the sons of God on earth are engaged in warfare just like the sons of God in the heavens)

Week 3 (beheading principalities-start with the leader)

Week 4 (we briefly covered the origin of demons and showed now that the head has been destroyed, we utterly devote the body to destruction)

Week 5 (Satan attempts to abort God's plans. Satan goes after what God chooses)

### ***INTRO:***

In 1 chron. 21:1 (satan incited) and 2 Sam. 24:1 (The LORD incited)

So, who incited the census...Satan or the LORD?

Well Job 34:12 says, "It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice." So, then it's Satan? But it also must be God because we know that scripture is true, and God does not lie - Numbers 23:19

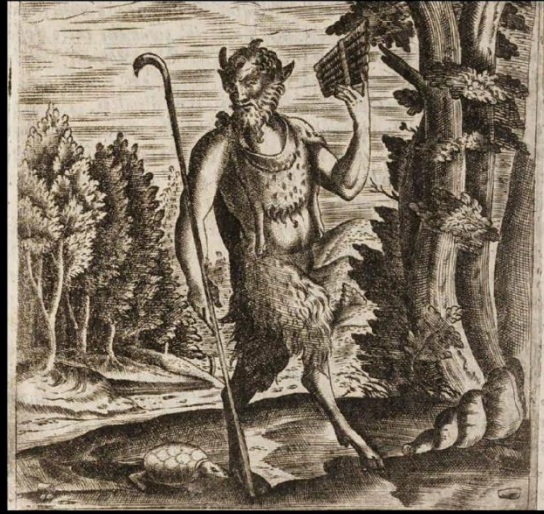
It's to the glory of God to conceal a matter and to the glory of kings to search it out

So, let's look at what we know about Satan:

Many of you know from previous teachings that we get our idea of Satans appearance from other deities.



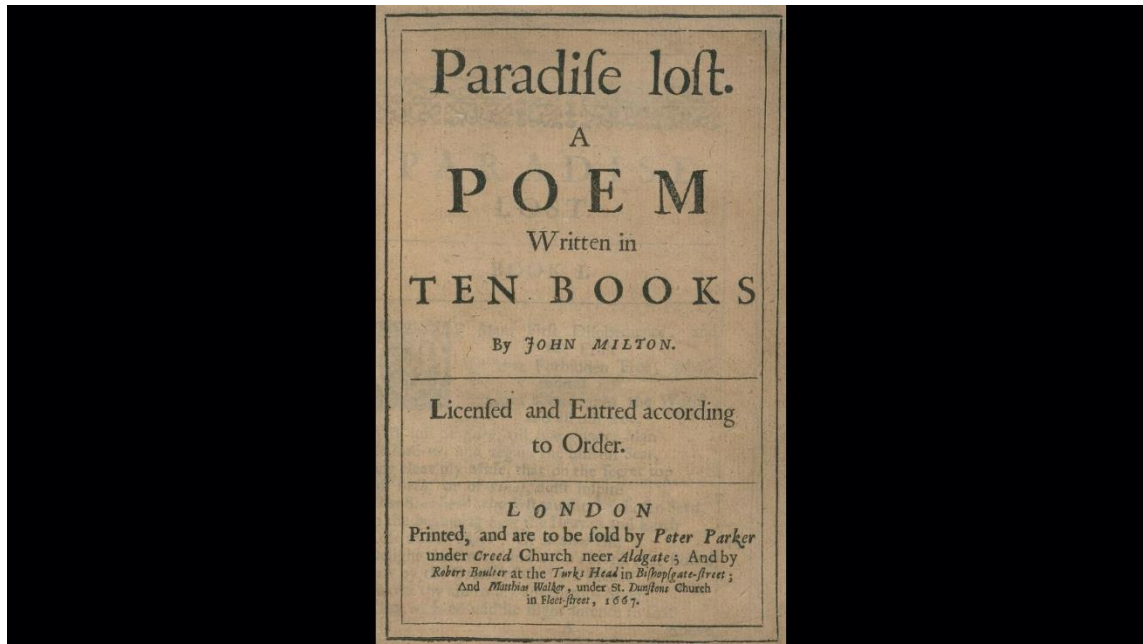
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We know that scripture does not describe Satan as looking anything like either of these gods.

With his appearance aside, most of the misinformation about Satan's origins and how he operates we actually get from a book called Paradise Lost, a 353 year old poem written by a guy named John Milton. Here are all the things that John Milton's poem teaches about Satan, none of which are taught explicitly in the Bible.



### **Misinformation**

1. His name is Lucifer
2. Most Beautiful of all the Angels
3. Was Heavens Worship Leader
4. Leads a failed rebellion against God declaring: Better to reign in hell than serve in Heaven!
5. Cast into Hell before the Fall
6. Has his Headquarters in Hell

Now, let's look at what the scripture actually says about Satan

### **He IS:**

1. 1 Peter 5:8 prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour -
2. 1 John 3:8 has been sinning from the beginning
3. John 8:44 a murderer from the beginning, the father of lies
4. 2 Cor. 11:14 disguises himself as an angel of light
5. Rev. 12:9 a great dragon, ancient serpent, deceiver of the whole world
6. 2 Cor. 4:4 blinds the minds of unbelievers
7. John 10:10 comes to steal, kill, and destroy
8. 1 John 5:19 the whole world lies in his power
9. Eph. 2:2 he is the spirit at work in the sons of disobedience

So now we know what this Satan character does, not through a poem, but through the scriptures. Now, to gain insight into the works of Satan, we need to look into the text to see where crimes of this nature are evident.

We should probably put together an evidence board:

1. **Who's to blame?**
  - a. Corruption of the Human Race (Gen 6) - Bene Ha Elohim
  - b. Corruption of the Nations (Gen 20-26) - Abimelech
  - c. Worldwide Famine (Gen 41) - Nature
  - d. Murdering of Infant Males (Exodus 1) - Pharaoh
  - e. Military Intimidation (Exodus) - Egypt

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- f. Unnatural Giant Enemies - Nephilim Genesis 6:4, Deuteronomy 3:11, numbers 13:33, Amos 2:9-10, 1chron 20:4-8
- g. Attempted Abortion of God's Family (2 Kings 11) - Athaliah
- h. Foreign Domination - Sennacherib - Isaiah 36
- i. Plot to Wipe out Persian Jews - Haman Esther 3

All these crimes for the description of our suspect, but as you can clearly see, he is never associated

So, what is he really? Job gives us some insight:

Job 1 & 2

Job 1:6-12

Job 2: 1-5

Satan at face value, was a prosecutor, he had a God-given function to accuse the brothers and he was allowed in God's presence. This agrees perfectly with Rev. 12:10 "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

Let's search the scriptures and discover Satan's exposure

- The exciting reveal
  1. Deut. 19:15-19 (the law establishes here that 2 or 3 witnesses are required for an accusation, if the accuser is false, the punishment will be for him what he intended to do to his brother)
  2. Zech. 3:1-2 (very first rebuke of satan in the biblical text)
  3. Jude 9 (this is a 2nd rebuke of satan by archangel Michael)
  4. Matt. 4:8-11

We cannot overemphasize what is happening here. Timeline wise the rebuke of Michael comes first. Then the rebuke of the Lord in Zechariah concerning Joshua the high priest. By the time we get to Jesus in the desert, rather than Jesus being led out to see how much he could suffer...He seems to be baiting Satan into what looks like a sting operation. He endures through two of Satans temptations...he could have said away from me Satan at any time and he had

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angels waiting in the wings to attend him...upon hearing satans open solicitation for worship finally rebukes him and says away from me satan...rebuking him for the third time and fulfilling the demands of Deuteronomy 19. Satans condemnation is certain and his exposure is now imminent. The following events show that satan is in the dark about God's plan to expose him.

The stage is set, and now everything shifts

5. John 12:30-33 Listen to the prophecy He gives about what will happen during his crucifixion (Jesus indicated the timing of the devil's exposure would correlate with his crucifixion)
6. John 13:27 (satan entered Judas, getting sloppy, he is still trying to remain hidden and let someone else take the fall)
7. John 14:30-31 (Jesus is aware of satan's behavior and has a plan to expose him but satan keeps walking right into the trap)
8. John 16:1 Jesus knows exactly what is going on and informs his disciples
9. Revelation 12:7-9,12 (everything that just happened is summed up here: the battle where the heavens are purged of satan, but he is thrown to the earth)

Case closed! Satan was able to come before God and get permission from God to test people. He acted like a prosecutor but one that was corrupt. God followed the law to a "t". He waited patiently as Satan's wicked behavior grew, built an airtight case against him and judged him rightly.

Let's go back to our initial text, 1 Chronicles 21 and 2 Samuel 24. Scripture remains accurate because God allowed Satan to incite the census in 2 Sam, he was building a case against him. By 1 chron. Which was 500 years later it was clear that Satan was acting as an adversary and was more directly accused of inciting the census.

But from Rev. 12:12 we now see that he is here on the earth. He is going to continue to do the same thing: steal, kill, and destroy  
and he loves to let other people take the fall, so he can stay hidden...because he knows there is an even greater judgment still to come  
But we're not going to let him stay hidden anymore, Amen?

Take a look at John 3:20-21

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Have you ever done something wrong and tried to hide it? Raise your hand up real high! Satan was doing evil things and tried to avoid being exposed. When you seek to hide and avoid the light you are joining in the works of satan

Eph. 2:2 the spirit who is at work in the sons of disobedience

How are you Joining in the works of Satan? In what ways, am I doing his works, and acting as he acts?

The FIRST way we join in the works of Satan, is by keeping Sin in the dark and by playing the role of OFFENDER.

**The Offender:** Let's look at (John 3:18-21). When you keep your sin in the dark, you are directly working for Satan. Satan tried to hide his evil schemes, using every smoke screen possible to make sure he went undetected, he was living in the dark. How do **you** live in the dark?

- It's late at night and you're lying next to your wife on your phone, the things you're looking she cannot see, they are hidden in the dark.
- You fudge a few numbers at work to guarantee the sale, it's a victimless crime, hidden in the dark.
- You talk about disciplining your kids in front of others, but at home you neglect to discipline and are ruled by your kids, no one would ever know.
- Though married you've started looking up your old boyfriend online

The Word of God is explicit in how things in the dark will be treated by God.

Psalm 90:8 - You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

-Your sins are in plain sight before God

Proverbs 28:13 -

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,

but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

-Mercy is waiting for you if you will confess them

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Ephesians 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

-Scripture clearly commands us to expose these deeds

John 3:20 - **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

-If you love truth you will come into the light...fear will keep you in the dark

Psalms 32:3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

If the Lord is moving on you now and your heart is starting to beat fast, do not push Him away, do not silence the Holy Spirit in these moments, The hand of the Lord is heavy on you now and the way forward is to confess your transgressions before the Lord and receive forgiveness. If you know this is you and that you must bring things into the light raise your hand right now...put it down there will be time

There is another way we join the works of Satan. There was a place for Satan as the prosecutor before the Lord as we saw in Job. There is a place for right judgement. In Leviticus 19:17-18 - "Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." Satan is not lovingly correcting a brother when he sins. Somewhere along the way he was corrupted and became conceited. We see this clearly in 1 Timothy 3:6.

1 Timothy 3:6- He must not be a recent convert, or he may become "PUFFED UP" with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. (1 Tim. 3:6) typhōtheis (G5187)-to be lifted up with pride, to hold oneself above others

- When you are done wrong
- When you see others do wrong
- When you even suspect others of doing wrong

A trap that is very easy to fall into is that of the **accuser**

Satan is continually accusing the righteous, without witness as the law demands, and he is thwarted time and time again.

How do you work as the accuser?

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You see the Accuser is interested in disqualifying people. The accuser is interested in the judgment of God falling upon others. His eyes are focused on people's weakness not to strengthen them but to destroy them.

Everyone in here has been wronged by others. People in here have been abused, betrayed, slandered, attacked, and even unjustly accused by others. You have been treated unfairly, not loved properly by your parents, taken advantage of by the government, overlooked by teachers, treated harshly by coaches and employers...that's for sure...but what have you done in return? You see at this point we would normally ask if you hold bitterness in your heart towards them...we would ask if you have forgiven them...we would ask if you hold things against the ones who have hurt you...but you see the way you tell that you are free from the trap of the accuser is not just by forgiving...but by becoming their advocate. Look at the example of Jesus with Peter. Luke 22:31-34 **31** "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." **33** But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." **34** Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

You see Jesus, knowing that Peter was going to betray him could have distanced himself from Peter...could have disqualified Peter upfront to save himself the trouble. He knew Peter wasn't his enemy. He knew that his battle wasn't against flesh and blood. More than that he embraced the real battle against the powers and principalities of darkness, and he interceded for Peter. And what do we know Jesus did in John 21 for Peter? He restored him.

You see the opposite of being An Accuser is to be An Advocate. You can tell if you've forgiven someone if you are advocating for them...if you are fighting for them to be restored...fighting to see them live up to their full potential.

You see this must be your goal...to Advocate...

Galatians. 6:1 "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."

Tempted to what? If they sinned what temptation awaits me? The temptation to accuse, the temptation to hate, to slander, to hold a grudge against. Do not leave today without ensuring that you will no longer be an accuser to anyone, but an advocate to all.

Listen to what Paul says in

2 Cor. 2:10-11 **10** Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, **11** in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.