

Genesis 2.5: Satan and the First Fall

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- Satan's origin goes back to the beginning ("that ancient serpent"). (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8; Rev 12:9, 20:2)
- Before there was a fall on Earth (incited by Satan), there must have been a fall in heaven.
- Before there was a fall in heaven, there must have been angels that have the potential to fall (*posse peccare*).
- Angels were witnesses to the creation of heaven and earth and mankind. (Job 38:7)
- Some angels are elect—meaning that they are unable to fall from their state of created perfection (*non posse peccare*). (1 Tim 5:21)
- Before there was a fall either in heaven or on earth, there was no hell.
- When the creation was completed, it was *very good*. (Gen 1:31)
- There is an indeterminate amount of time between the end of creation and the appearance of the serpent in the garden.
- My argument is therefore that the fall in heaven occurred after the end of Gen. 2 and before the beginning of Gen. 3. Satan rebelled and was cast out of heaven and thrown down to earth with his fallen angels. He subsequently appeared in the Garden to tempt man and bring about the fall of humanity.
- Satan rebelled against God because he was not content to remain under God's authority. In the same way, man rejected the binding authority of God's word in favor of pursuing his own desires.
- Hell was created as a place of punishment for Satan, his angels, and reprobate men who follow after them. (Matt 25:41)
- There is no possibility of redemption for fallen angels—Christ died only for the elect of *mankind*.

Some names and titles for Satan:

- Serpent—"snake" (Gen 3; 2 Cor 11:3; Rev 12)
- Satan—"adversary" (Job 1,2; Zec 3; Matt 4:10; 2 Cor 11:14; Rev 2:9,13; 12:9)
- Devil—"slanderer" (Matt 4; Luke 4; John 8:44; Eph 6:11; Jam 4:7; 1 Pet 5:8; 1 John 3:8; Rev 12:9)
- Dragon (Rev 12:9)
- Evil one (John 17:15; Eph 6:16; 1 John 3:12)
- Accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10)
- Deceiver of the whole world (Rev 12:9)
- Tempter (Matt 4:3; 1 Thess 3:5)
- Liar and father of lies (John 8:44)
- Beelzebul—"lord of the flies" (Luke 11:15, 18, 19)
- Belial—"worthless" (2 Cor 6:15)
- Prince of demons (Matt 9:34)
- Prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2)
- Angel of light (2 Cor 11:14)
- god of this world (2 Cor 4:4)
- Abaddon—"destruction" (Rev 9:11)
- Apollyon—"destroyer" (Rev 9:11)

Satan's tactics with Adam and Eve in the Garden:

- create doubt about the truthfulness of God's word (Gen 3:1)
- flat-out lie (Gen 3:4)
- malign God's character and appeal to pride (Gen 3:5)
- appeal to the senses (Gen 3:6)
- lead you to believe you can cover guilt by your own efforts (Gen 3:7)

Satan's tactics with Jesus in the wilderness:

- malign God's character and pose a false dilemma (Luke 4:3)
- appeal to pride (Luke 4:7)
- malign God's character, pose a false dilemma, and misinterpret Scripture (Luke 4:9-11)

Satan's tactics with Job:

- took away Job's animals, servants, and children (Job 1:13-19)
- took away Job's health, put temptation in the mouth of his wife, and sent him three friends that weren't much help (Job 2:7-11)

Satan's tactic with Joshua the High Priest:

- accusation (Zec 3:1)

Satan's additional tactics?

- stir up fear—of shame, suffering, death
- distract you with amusements
- create unnecessary strife and division in the church
- others?

How are Satan's tactics different with unbelievers?

- deceive with signs and wonders
- lead astray with false teachers who tell people what they want to hear
- appeal to worldly desires
- appeal to intellectual pride
- others?

What is the chief sin of both men and angels? (James 4:1-10; 1 Peter 5:1-11)

Satan is chiefly an enemy of God, but since he cannot attack God *directly*, he attacks man made in God's image. Anyone attacking *man* (made in God's image) is attacking God *by proxy*—e.g., Cain was angry with God and so killed his brother Abel. (Gen 4:5) "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:20)