



# THE INVISIBLE WAR AGAINST SATAN





# Part 1: The Origin and Fall of Satan



# Introduction

“Modern people,” observes theologian John Frame, “have lost touch with the supernatural and preternatural.” Carl F.H. Henry asserts that “modern philosophers and theologians are not alone in failing to take Satan seriously; it was Adam in Eden, and we his descendants, who are dupes in the same tradition. Man faltered in the line of moral duty and failed to fulfill his commitments in Eden; more than this he so thwarted his relationship to God that as a spiritual turncoat he now perceives God as his rival and enemy. That man fell does not mean that Adam stumbled in his upright walk and physically impaired himself; it means, rather, that from obedience to God he lapsed into the very worst moral and spiritual condition possible for Adam and Eve and their offspring.”



# Introduction

Is it possible that perhaps we, too, have lost touch with the supernatural and failed to take Satan seriously? Could it be that, living among a preponderance of people who adhere to technological, scientific, and materialistic worldviews, the doctrine of Satan has become an embarrassment to us? Have we embraced universal salvation, as did John Hick and others, and demythologized the devil? Has Satan become an intolerable fiction? Do we ever believe that Satan is more than a created being or that he is a wholly independent force? And why has spiritism, demonism, and even Satan worship revived in recent decades as a phenomenon of civilized society? It is clear that Western thought has eroded faith in the invisible spiritual world.



# Introduction

*The Invisible War Against Satan* is a series designed to address the questions that you may have been asking for years, to dispel ideas which have their roots in pagan myths and cultures, and to challenge popular and long-held beliefs about Satan, demonization, demon possession, and exorcisms which fail to take the Scriptures seriously.

The foundation of our study will be God's own self-disclosure, His written Word. The eternal God has given us the Scriptures by which we may know the truth about everything, including Satan, demons, and spiritual warfare. Those who understand their enemy and his strategies, as the Lord has revealed, and know how to engage him with the proper weapons will be more than conquerors.



# An Introductory Bio

“Behind man and his fortunes, the Bible tells us, there stands not only God his sovereign Maker and Lord but also the agency of a malevolent spirit called Satan. He is no apelike progenitor of man, nor fashioned from the dust of the earth. Rather he is a fallen spirit from the angelic world, a demonic creaturely intelligence who impinges dramatically on the course of human events. The Serpent influentially alters Adam’s understanding of ideal godlikeness and consequently plunges mankind into disastrous spiritual rebellion.”

- Carl F.H. Henry





# The Serpent in the Garden of Eden


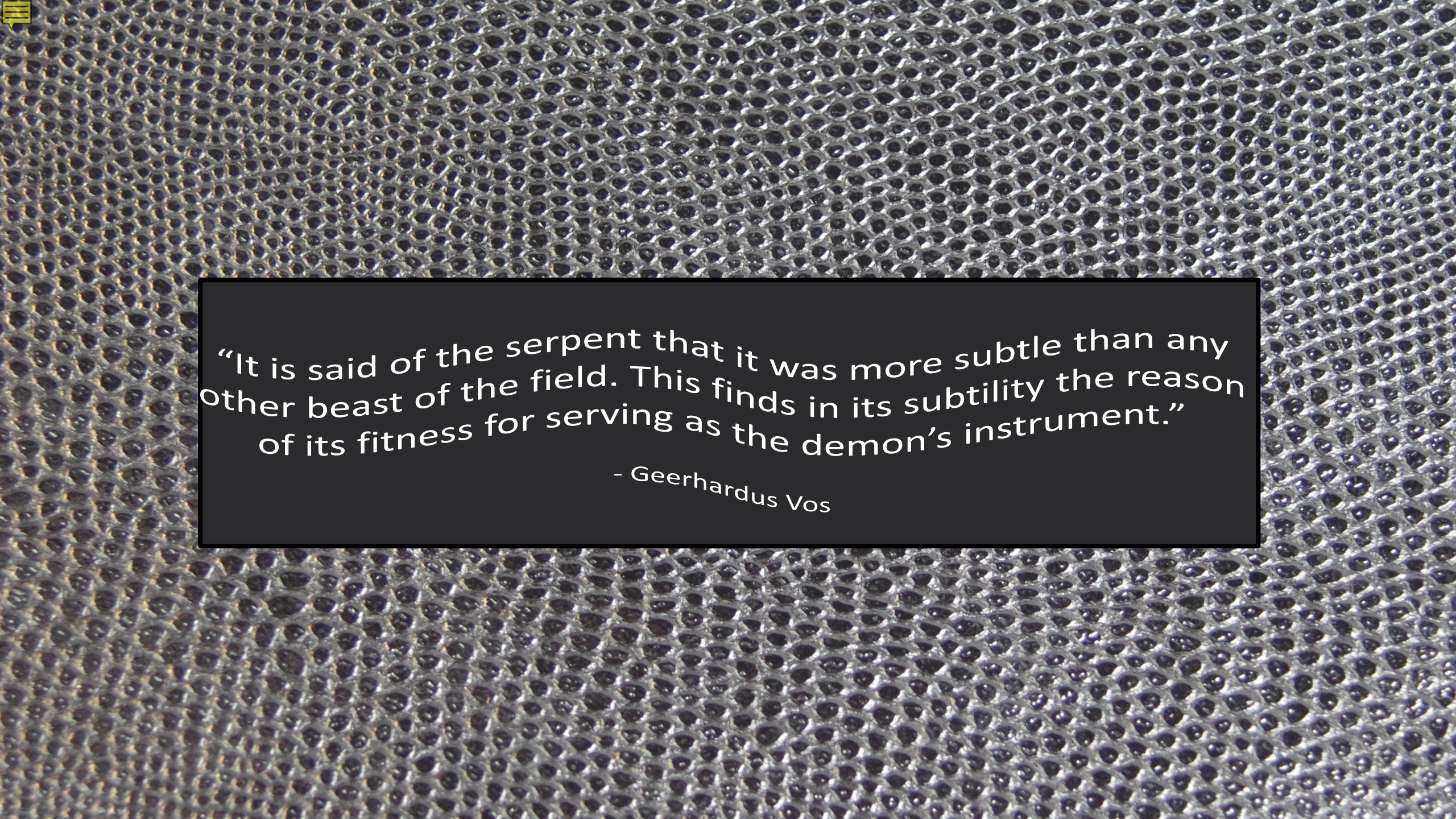
- The first mention of Satan in the Bible is in Genesis 3:1, where he is called “the serpent” (see also, Gen. 3:2,3,13,14).
- From the beginning of our study, you should ask yourself how you understand this account of Satan and the temptation in the Garden of Eden. Is this writing *allegorical* and not to be understood as a single occurrence that took place in space and time? If so, is Satan simply a symbol or an allegory?
- *Response:* In the Genesis narrative, the other beasts which God created are real. The serpent is compared to the other beasts He made. If the others are real, the serpent is also real. The punishment also requires a real serpent (Gen. 3:14).



# The Serpent in the Garden of Eden

- A second view suggests that the serpent was no more than a serpent – a physical animal. But, if so, how are we to conceive of a simple serpent speaking? The Scripture always upholds the distinction between man who speaks and the animals who do not speak [the only exception being Balaam's donkey (Num. 22:28-30)].
- The traditional view is that a **real serpent** and a **demonic power** were present. Satan made use of the serpent to carry out his plan. This view is not improbable and is confirmed by what we see in the Gospel accounts where demons speak through people who are rightly called demoniacs (e.g., the Gadarene Demoniac, Mt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-39).





“It is said of the serpent that it was more subtle than any other beast of the field. This finds in its subtility the reason of its fitness for serving as the demon’s instrument.”

- Geerhardus Vos





# A Real Serpent

“The serpent is not a merely symbolical term applied to Satan; nor was it only the form which Satan assumed; but it was a real serpent, perverted by Satan to be the instrument of his temptation. There is no reasonable ground for disputing the possibility of such an influence.”

- C.F. Keil and F. Delitzsch











# God's Revelation Regarding Angels

- The Hebrew word for *angel* is used 214 times in the Old Testament, while the Greek word for *angel* in the New Testament is used 186 times (Total=400). John Frame did a computer search on the English word for *angel* in the English Standard Version (ESV) and found that “the words translated ‘angel’ occur 203 times in Scripture.”
- The variation in the two totals is due to the fact that the word is sometimes applied to human messengers.
- Other names are given in Scripture to these created beings, including “living creatures,” “cherubim,” “seraphim,” “sons of God,” “sons of the mighty,” “spirits,” “holy ones,” “watchers,” “principalities and powers,” and “thrones.”



# Who Are Angels?

- **Angel:** “An order of supernatural or heavenly beings whose business it is to act as God’s messengers to men, and as agents who carry out His will” (ISBE).
- “Angels are so great in number, and so powerful, that human beings are sometimes tempted to worship them. The apostle John fell down to worship at an angel’s feet, but the angel rebuked him” (Frame).
- “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation” (Heb. 1:14).
- The angels are witnesses to the human drama of salvation. “In order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places” (Eph. 3:10; cf. 1 Pt. 1:12).





# The Origin of Satan

- Neither the Old Testament nor the New Testament attempt to discuss the origin of Satan or to suggest a reason for his existence.
- “The biblical text offers very little information on the origin of Satan and the source of his ability, power, and influence” (van Groningen).
- According to the book of *Job*, Satan appears when God holds a council with his angelic servants: “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them” (Job 1:6-12;2:1-7).



# The Origin of Satan and Demons

- When God created the universe, he “saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1:31). “This means,” concludes Wayne Grudem, “that even the angelic world that God created did not have evil angels or demons in it at that time.”
- “Sometime between the events of Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1, there must have been a rebellion in the angelic world with many angels turning against God and becoming evil” (Grudem).
- It must be concluded, as John Frame affirms, that “some angels must have defected from their good condition after the original creation... the angelic fall evidently preceded the fall of man.”



# War in Heaven

- “Satan was one of the angels whom God created when the heavens were brought forth” (GVG). It is possible that he was one of the archangels such as Michael [“But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you’” (Jude 9)].
- “And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war” (Rev. 12:7).
- Henri Blocher cautioned exegetes, theologians, and philosophers not to give the fall of Satan a key position in one’s system, but “for reasons of biblical theology, we must assert the fall of Satan.”





# The Fall of Satan and His Angels

- In a footnote in his *Systematic Theology*, Dr. Frame clarifies what Scripture teaches about Satan's fall: "Scripture does not narrate the fall of Satan and his angels, but Isaiah 14:3-21 and Ezekiel 28:2-19 deal with the defeat of the kings of Babylon and Tyre, respectively, using imagery suggesting analogies with the fall of Satan."
- "How far you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend about the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High'" (Is. 14:12-14).

# Grudem on Isaiah 14

This “strongly suggests a rebellion by an angelic creature of great power and dignity. It would not be uncommon for Hebrew prophetic speech to pass from descriptions of human events to descriptions of heavenly events that are parallel to them and that the earthly events picture in a limited way. If this is so, then the sin of Satan is described as one of pride and attempting to be equal to God in status and authority.”



**Wayne Grudem, PhD**

Professor of Theology and Biblical Studies  
Phoenix Seminary  
1947 -

# An Analogy of the Fall of Satan?

“You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering...On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub...You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned. I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground...” (Ezek. 28:12-17).



# John Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Th' infernal Serpent; he it was, whose guile  
Stirred up with envy and revenge, deceived  
The mother of mankind, what time his pride  
Had cast him out from heav'n, with all his host  
Of rebel angels, by whose aid aspiring  
To set himself in glory above his peers,  
He trusted to have equaled the Most High,  
If he opposed; and with ambitious aim  
Against the throne and monarchy of God  
Raised impious war in heav'n and battle proud  
With vain attempt.





# *Paradise Lost*

Him the Almighty Power  
Hurled headlong flaming from th' ethereal sky  
With hideous ruin and combustion down  
To bottomless perdition, there to dwell  
In adamant chains and penal fire,  
Who durst defy th' Omnipotent to arms.



# The Expulsion of Fallen Angels

- “And the angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6, NASV).
- “And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day” (ESV).
- “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment...” (II Pt. 2:4, ESV).
- “They are condemned without mercy to a coming final doom” (Henry).





# The Origin of the Name *Lucifer*

- It may surprise you that one of the names given to Satan, *Lucifer*, was derived from this Isaiah passage. The *Day Star* (ESV), or *Morning Star* (NIV), comes from the Hebrew word “to shine.” He is called “son of Dawn” from the fact that “it rises before the sun, and swims in the morning light as if that were the source of its birth” (Keil & Delitzsch). Prior to, and including, the publication of the King James Version in 1611, all English translations used the word *Lucifer*: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!”
- *Lucifer* is from the Latin, Luxfero [from **lux** = light (of the sun, stars, etc.); daylight, day, splendor + **fero** = to bear or carry].

# Lucifer

Know then, that after Lucifer from heav'n  
(So call him, brighter once amidst the host  
Of angels, than that star the stars among)  
Fell with his flaming legions through the deep  
Into his place...

- John Milton, *Paradise Lost*



**Gustave Doré**

1832-1883

Illustration for *Paradise Lost*, 1866



*Pandemonium* by John Martin (1789-1854)



# Do You Believe Satan Exists?

“If wild animals exist, is it unhealthy to believe they exist? Isn't it much more unhealthy to pretend they don't? If our ancestors tended to the mistake of over-emphasizing the devil (and this was indeed unhealthy), we tend to the opposite mistake: forgetting that life is spiritual warfare, that there *is* an enemy...”



**Peter Kreeft, PhD**

Professor of Philosophy, Boston College

1937 -

# Erroneous Views of Satan



**C.S. Lewis**  
1898-1963

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

- *The Screwtape Letters*

# A Concluding Warning

“Satan is most successfully present where he is denied, forgotten, unexpected or unnoticed.”

- Carl F.H. Henry

