

The background of the image is a dramatic, high-contrast photograph of dark, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are dense and textured, with some lighter areas where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall tone is somber and intense.

THE INVISIBLE WAR AGAINST SATAN

A dramatic, high-contrast black and white photograph of a sky filled with heavy, dark, and textured clouds. The clouds are dense and swirling, with some lighter patches where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall mood is ominous and powerful.

Part 3: Satan's Activities and Power



Introduction

Pulitzer Prize-winning author, William Manchester (1922-2004), wrote an exceptional three-volume, 2,911-page biography of Winston Churchill (with Paul Reid completing the third volume), which was acclaimed by *The Washington Times* as “an exhaustive portrait of one of the last century’s true titans.” The dust cover of his first volume, *Visions of Glory*, creatively captured the essence of Manchester’s work: He has “woven the strands of the man and the British Empire’s decline into a driving narrative, re-creating the sweep of the past and the private life of England’s last and greatest statesman. In these pages, the British lion – symbol of imperial might – rises rampant once more, all teeth and claws and flashing eyes, doomed but defiant, magnificent and immortal.”



Introduction

A biography, according to Kathleen Morner and Ralph Rausch, is “a written account of a person’s life that focuses on the character and career of the subject. Ideally, a biography is an accurate life history of a particular person, placed in the times in which he or she lived, but centered on a well-rounded and factual portrait of personality, character, and habits of mind.” My initial fascination with biographies emerged early in life when my curiosity began to develop and my longing to truly know people and their worlds seemed insatiable. Each unique and captivating story opened my mind to a broader world which existed beyond my own. Books became the portals through which I passed into other histories, realities, realms, and adventures.

Introduction

As I was gradually introduced to the *invisible world* of the triune God, good and bad angels, death, and the afterlife, my curiosity intensified, and I learned what it meant to *wonder*. After being introduced to R.C. Sproul and his writings, I would learn a simple truth: that the Bible “provides information that is not available anywhere else.” God alone is able to reveal the unseen.



Introduction

Even so, it would not be possible to write a definitive biography of Satan. Though thousands of pages have been written about him since the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the only reliable source material can be found in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Having been given to us by revelation, the Bible provides us with an accurate portrait of who Satan is and what he does. Both Testaments reveal enough propositional truth about him that the careful student can gradually form a clear and sufficient portrait of his character, activities, and ultimate end. So, while our knowledge of him is not comprehensive and contains mystery, we acknowledge that we can know this Roaring Lion with whom we must contend in this life.

Introduction

In Part 1 of this series, we traveled back in time to Satan's creation, rebellion, and fall. Then, in Part 2, we gathered all the available revelatory information from Scripture that enabled us to learn his Hebrew and Greek names which painted a vivid, though dreadful, portrait of his true character and exposed him for the Evil One that he truly is.

Today, building upon our earlier studies, we will consider the scope of Satan's activities, power, and defeat.

We will begin with a brief review of his names.



Review: The Names of Satan & His Demons

- Satan
- Adversary
- Lucifer
- Devil
- Accuser
- Ancient Serpent
- Dragon
- Ruler of this World
- Beelzebub
- Roaring Lion
- Evil One
- Tempter
- God of This World
- Deceiver
- Ruler of the Demons
- Angel of Light
- Prince of the Power of the Air
- Principalities and Powers

“The devil is a super-human personality, bigger than man, stronger than man, greater than man.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones



What Satan Seeks to Do

- To attack and destroy God's good work in creation. The word *good* (e.g., "And God saw that it was good") is used 7 times in the creation narrative (Gen. 1:4,10, 12,18,21,25,31).
- To bring disorder, confusion, trouble, and chaos into God's perfect creation.
- To separate man from God and "thwart God's project of remaking the world and human beings in and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit" (N.T. Wright).
- To see to it that humans waste and ruin their lives rather than experience the abundant life which Jesus came to give. How many lives have been ruined by drugs, alcohol, affairs, money, war, etc.?

What Satan Seeks to Do

- To hinder man from worshiping God and living for His glory alone.
- To promote disobedience to God and His revealed will.
- To accuse God's children before God so that they will constantly live with guilt, shame, fear, and feelings of unworthiness, thus eliminating their joyful participation in serving Christ and building His church.
- To tempt believers to sin against the Lord.
- To deceive and lie to the world about God and His revealed truth by posing as an angel of light.
- To serve as an unseen spiritual power behind visible agents and manifestations of evil.



What Satan Seeks to Do

- To foster doubt about God's goodness, wisdom, and veracity.
- To sow discord among people and destroy relationships.
- To move us to indulge in the desires of the flesh and of the mind.
- To "blind the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (II Cor. 4:4).
- To "plunge man into disastrous spiritual rebellion" (Carl F.H. Henry).
- To lead people to death, eternal separation from God's presence, and enduring exposure to His wrath (Henry).
- To lead people down a "terrible trail of terror and shame" (Henry).

The Tactics of Satan

“The tactics of Satan and his demons are to use lies (Jn. 8:44), deception (Rev. 12:9), murder (Ps. 106:37; Jn. 8:44), and every other kind of destructive activity to attempt to cause people to turn away from God and destroy themselves....They will also try to use temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander, or any other means possible to hinder a Christian’s witness and usefulness.”

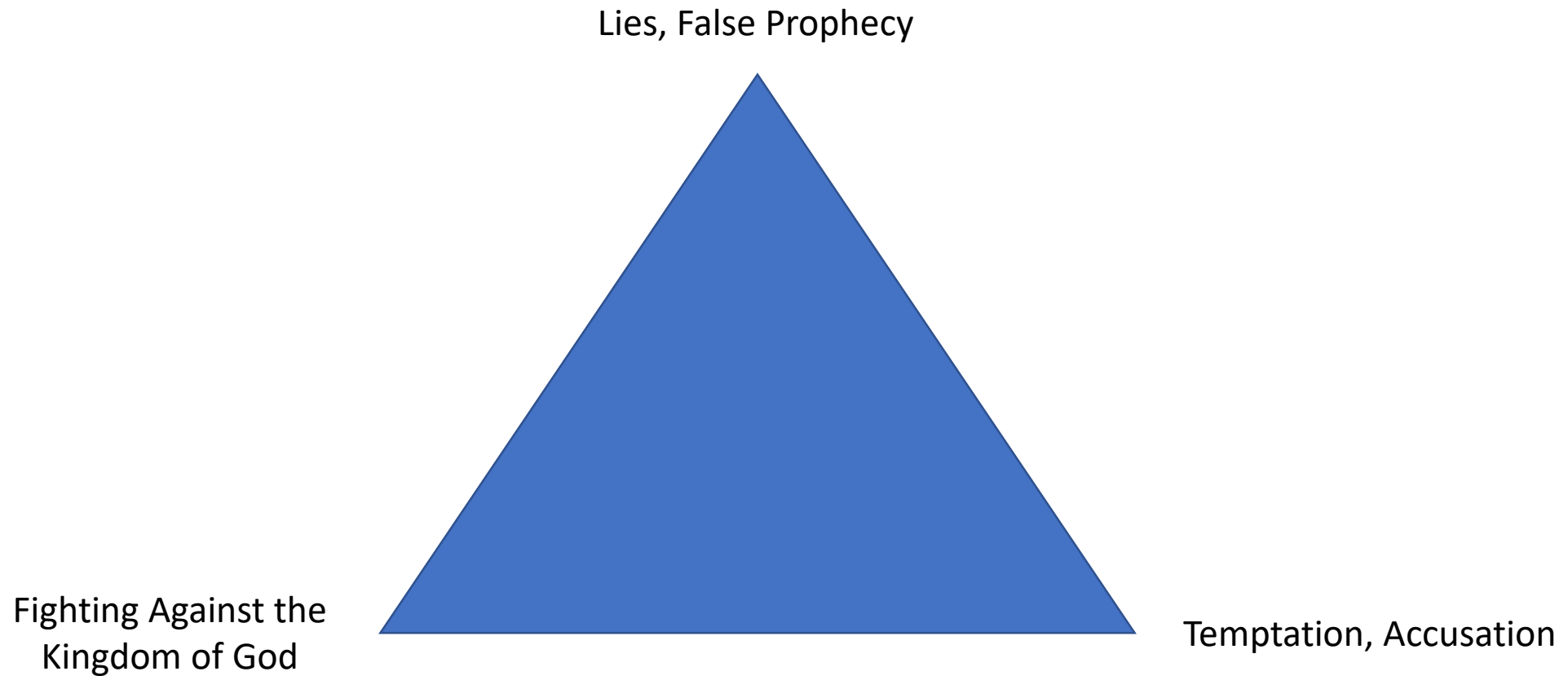


Wayne Grudem

Professor of Theology and Biblical Studies
Phoenix Seminary
1948 -



John Frame's Summary of Satan's Activity





Satan's Power

- First, it must be remembered that Satan is **not omnipresent**. He is a created being and cannot be everywhere at once, as revealed to us in Scripture: “The Lord said to Satan, ‘From where have you come?’ Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it’” (Job 1:7). Finite beings can only be in one place at a time (A.A. Hodge).
- Apparently, a host of demons can be present in very little space. The demons who entered into the Gadarene demoniac were named Legion (“for we are many”), and went into 2,000 swine (Mk. 5:1-13).
- Martyn Lloyd-Jones forces us to think deeper about Satan’s enormous power when he says, “**The power of the devil is alarming.**”

Satan's Power

- The Apostle Paul calls him a ***roaring lion***, seeking someone to devour (I Pt. 5:8). He is also called ***the great dragon*** (Rev. 12:9), who is also known as the serpent of old, the Devil, and Satan (Rev. 20:2).
- Satan can perform miracles. “For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect” (Mt. 24:24). “The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders” (II Thess. 2:9).
- “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (I John 5:19; see also I Jn. 2:13-14; 3:12; 5:18-19; Mt. 13:19,38; Eph. 6:16).



Satan's Power

- He can manifest himself in many ways. “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14). The Greek word for *disguise* means “to transform, to alter, to change the outward appearance of a person or thing.” Satan’s disguise, of course, is not *physical*, but *moral*. David Powlison notes that “our enemy’s supreme goal is to exert moral lordship. He sabotages both truth and love if he can conform us to his image.”
- “Nothing could be more incongruous than for Satan to pose as an angel of light; but he can do so only by falsehood, that is by the contradiction of God’s Word, as he has done from the beginning, and by his lies he murders the souls of men” (Philip E. Hughes).



Satan's Power

- Never forget that Satan did not hesitate to tempt and attack the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, in the wilderness (Mt. 4; Lk. 4).
- Remember how Satan tried to use Simon Peter to dissuade Jesus from going to the cross: “But He (Jesus) turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interest, but man’s’” (Mt. 16:23).
- While Satan’s power is great, it is also limited; he is under the supreme power and sovereign authority of God. “Satan prowls, but he’s a lion on a leash” (Ann Voskamp).
- God allows the devil to do certain things to bring about and advance His own divine purposes.