

Give The Devil His Due

Chapter 2

Common Beliefs About The Devil

At the beginning of this study we read about the thief on the cross. Let's read that again because I want you to keep it in mind as we study other Scriptures about the devil, Satan, and the serpent:

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

Luke 23:39-41

So the thief said that his own wickedness had caused his problem. He did not say that the devil caused it. He was receiving the “due” reward of his deeds. In other words, death was justly due him. The thief didn't give any “due” to the devil, but claimed it all for himself.

Most professing Christian churches say the devil, or Satan, is a living creature who has thoughts and power of his own. They teach that he influences many human beings to do wicked deeds or to have wicked thoughts.

The following is a quote from Cruden (of Cruden's Concordance) describing what he calls “the Devil or Satan”:

“A most wicked angel, the implacable enemy and tempter of the human race, deadly in his malice, surprisingly subtle, possessing strength superior to ours, having a mighty number of principalities

and powers under his command, he roves, full of rage, like a roaring lion, seeking to tempt, to betray, to destroy us, to involve us in guilt and wickedness. In a word, he is an enemy to God and man, and uses his utmost endeavors to rob God of His glory and men of their souls.”

In a few short words, this sums up what most of the “fundamentalist” preachers would say of the devil. Cruden comments further:

“Common belief assigns something like omniscience to the evil being thus described. He is regarded as universally at work, alike active in England and America, and all other parts of the globe at the same time, and exerting his seductive arts in millions of hearts at once. He is also believed to be, in some sense, omnipotent, achieving his behest by a power superior to nature, and certainly more successful than God in the mutual strife for human souls, since hell, according to tradition, receives a far larger proportion of the earth's inhabitants than find their ways to the celestial city.”

I think you would agree that the above is a general statement of the belief of the fundamentalist churches. They believe that, in this contest between the devil and God, the devil has been in the past, and is currently, the victor: the successful one, because he has claimed more human beings or more souls than God has.

There is another teaching about the devil, which denies that any such creature exists. Most who believe this teaching, also, deny that God Almighty exists. Some call themselves, Atheists or Evolutionists and they claim that the natural world, which we see, is all that exists. They say it came into being somehow; we know not quite how, but that it has evolved into what we see today without any outside force acting upon it.

On the other hand, some believe in a supernatural Devil to whom they've attributed ALL power. They praise him and become Devil or Satan Worshipers. These people claim that they receive benefits, or receive their desires, from the devil. They, actually, came up with a religion (which we would call "devil worship"), where they give praise to "the Devil" to the exclusion of God.

Christians are instructed not to give place to the devil. They are to put on the whole armor of God to stand against the devil. Christians are warned that they can sometimes be captives of the devil. The devil has the power of death, but Jesus destroyed that power. The devil will flee if you resist him. He is likened to a lion, devouring people. John wrote: "All who have sinned are of the devil" Jesus was made manifest to destroy the works of the devil.



In Revelation, we found that the devil can put Christians in prison. Reading the references to the devil in order, from the New Testament, we came across a beast who was called a "dragon," a "serpent," and also "the Devil" (capitalized). This beast turned out to be, what could only be described, as great world powers, nations and kingdoms because the beast, Who is, also, called the Devil, had seven heads and ten horns and those heads and horns were described as nations and kingdoms.

In reading through the New Testament, our devil first was something that acted upon individual Christians and then, Lo and behold, by the time we reached the Book of Revelation, he had become nations, kingdoms, and earthly powers. Reading about the devil in the last part of the New Testament, we found the description did not fit anything else we had read at the first. There seemed to be a tremendous contradiction. Also, there is somewhat of a contradiction between what the Bible teaches and what the churches teach, according to what I just quoted from Mr. Cruden.

We cannot use the descriptions in Revelation, chapters 12, 13 and 17, for what is commonly considered "the devil." Here, he is being described as nations, kingdoms and world powers. That doesn't mean that these powers have nothing to do with the devil but they are not the devil itself. Nations and kingdoms are made up of many people and earthly powers. They cannot be described as an angelic or supernatural being.

The Word "Diabolos"

Let's read Revelation 20 to try and find "the Devil" of the churches.

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Revelation 20:1-3

The term “devil” is used in verse two, and, again, in verse ten of Revelation 20. The Greek word is “diabolos.” According to Strong's Concordance, it means “traducer” (not seducer but traducer), “false accuser, slanderer or devil.” In the Book of Acts, in all of the epistles, and in Revelation, every time you read the word, “devil,” it comes from the Greek word “diabolos.” In 2 Timothy, the word “diabolos” is used but it is not translated “devil.”

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

2 Timothy 3:1-3

The two words “false accusers” are translated from the word, “diabolos.” If the translators had been consistent, “false accusers” would have read, “devils.” Then verse two would have read that men shall be devils (diabolos).

But the devil, or devils, were not supposed to be human! Yet, Paul says in the last days mortal men shall be “diabolos.” This is the same word that is used in Revelation, chapters 2 and 20, and in all of the epistles. Just so we don't leave the women out, let's read what it says in chapter two of Titus:

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers (diabolos), not given to much wine, teachers of good things, ...

Titus 2:1-3

Paul is saying that women have to be exhorted not to be devils. It appears, then, that Paul thought that men and women could be “diabolos” or “devils.” The word “serpent,” in Revelation 20, comes from this same Greek word: “diabolos,” which does not give any meaning of immortality or long-living, or any angelic or spirit nature to the serpent, as such. It simply means “false accuser” or “slanderer.” The serpent isn't an angelic being, when defined by the word, “devil,” because both men and women can be devils.

“Sawtawn:” Adversary — Not Fallen Angel

What about the word “Satan?” The serpent in Revelation 20 is called by the title “Satan.” That is a little simpler to understand because in every case where the word “Satan” appears in the New Testament, it comes from a Greek word pronounced “satanas.” In the Old Testament, it comes, every time, from the same Hebrew word which is pronounced, “sawtawn.” Here is what Strong's Concordance says of the Greek word “satanas:”

— Of Chaldean origin, the accuser, or the “devil.”

Strong's says this of the Hebrew word “sawtawn:”

— Opponent, adversary, Satan. From a slightly different root “sawtan, “ meaning to attack, accuse, to be an adversary, or to resist.

So, the word “Satan” in the original Greek and Hebrew, both in the Old Testament and the New, comes from the same word. It is a word of Chaldean origin which was transliterated by the Hebrews and picked up by the Greeks unchanged.

It means “accuser,” “adversary,” “opponent,” or it means “to do what an accuser, adversary or an opponent does.”

Let me demonstrate this from the use of “Satan” in the Old Testament. In Numbers 22, Balak has hired Balaam to prophesy against Israel.

Here, the word “sawtawn” is used and it is translated “adversary:”

And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do. And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the Lord stood in the way for an adversary (satan)

Numbers 22:20-22

Here we have an angel of the Lord who is a “satan” or an “adversary” against this man. The Hebrew text says the angel of the Lord was, literally, “a satan.”

In chapter 19 of 2 Samuel, David is in an argument with his own men. A man who had previously maligned David came and begged his forgiveness. David's men said that David should kill the man because he had cursed the Lord's anointed. David replied:

And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries (Satans) unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel?

2 Samuel 19:22

David spoke to the officers in his own army and asked them why they were being “sawtawns” or “satans” to him.

Here is another passage that uses the term “adversary”:

And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David. And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the Lord his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary (satan) nor evil occurrent.

Kings 5:1-4

The word “adversary” is from “sawtawn.” Solomon was saying to Hiram “God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither SATAN nor evil occurrent.” Solomon says there was no satan at that time. There was no “satan” because the word “satan” in the Chaldean, Hebrew and Greek means “opponent” or “adversary.” Solomon was saying he had no opponent; he was at peace. This word “sawtawn” is translated “Satan” 19 times in the Old Testament. It is found once in I Chronicles, 14 times in Job, once in Psalms and three times in Zechariah. The other 13 times that the word “sawtawn” appears, it is translated “adversary.” So it is transliterated to “Satan” 19 times and it is translated “adversary” 12 times. Adversary is the literal meaning of the word in all three languages - Chaldean, Hebrew, and Greek.

I think we should read a few more passages where “sawtawn” is translated “adversary.” In 1 Kings 11, near the end of his reign, we read that Solomon has sinned against God:

And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice. And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded. Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Not withstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

1 Kings 11:9-13

God is telling Solomon what He is going to do because of Solomon's sin.

And the Lord stirred up an adversary (a Satan) unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

1 Kings 11:14

The Lord stirred up a satan. Who was this satan? He was not only a man, but his name is given: "Hadad." He was a mortal man of Edom.

And God stirred him up another adversary (satan), Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:

1 Kings 11:23

So, here is another satan, who is a mortal, and his name is in the Bible.

And he was an adversary (satan) to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that Hadad did: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

1 Kings 11:25

David also used the word "sawtawn" in Psalm 38:

But mine enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied. They also that render evil for good are mine adversaries (satans); because I follow the thing that good is.

Psalm 38:19-20

"Adversaries" is made plural here by the translators. In the original text the word is "sawtawn," it can be used as both singular and plural. The translators made it plural because of David's use of the plural "they." He had more than one adversary and they were "satans." If the translators had been consistent, they would have transliterated "sawtawn" into "Satan."

Two other places where "sawtawn" was translated, "adversaries," are in Psalm 71 and Psalm 109:

O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help. Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries (satans) to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt.

Psalm 71:12-13

Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise; For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me

without a cause. For my love they are my adversaries (satans): but I give myself unto prayer.

Psalm 109:1-4

David's adversaries were not supernatural, angelic beings. But, they were "satans."

And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love. Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan (or an adversary) stand at his right hand.

Psalm 109:5-6

"Satan," in verse five, is the same word translated "adversaries" in verse four. Here it is transliterated into the word "Satan": "let Satan stand at his right hand." If you will, think about that for a moment. David is not praying that God will put "Satan," the devil of the churches, at the right hand of his enemy, but that God would place one of their own adversaries there. This is confusing because of the translation of the same word two different ways in the same text.

Let this be the reward of mine adversaries (satans) from the Lord, and of them that speak evil against my soul.

Psalm 109:20

Let mine adversaries (satans) be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.

Psalm 109:29

Again, David used "adversaries" or "satans" as a word that meant "human enemies." You cannot make this "sawtawn," or "satan" into an everliving, angelic, supernatural creature in any of the passages that we have read so far. In fact, in some places, he is a specific human being and he is named.

In every case where the original word "sawtawn" has been used, so far, we cannot use it for anything other than mortal human beings.

"Sawtawn" In Job

As I stated earlier, of the 19 times that the word "sawtawn" is transliterated as "Satan," 14 occur in Job. We will have to read those 14 passages in order to understand who or what caused all of Job's trouble. In the modern churches, it is common teaching that this fallen angel, this supernatural, angelic being, called "Satan," was responsible.

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

Job 1:1-5

We have established at the very beginning that Job is very wealthy, he has many sons and daughters, and he is a God-fearing man who praised God for all of his substance and all of his children.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

Job 1:6

The margin in my Bible, and in many Bibles, actually has the words “the 'adversary' came, also, among them,” because it is the same word “sawtawn.” Only here, it is capitalized and written as “Satan.”

And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:7-10

This creature, whoever and whatever he is, says that Job fears God and gives honor to Him because God has blessed him. God has given him all these things and protects him.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

Job 1:11-12

As you read on you find that Job lost his oxen, asses, sheep, servants, camels,

and even his sons and daughters. The churches say this was done by a great, angelic, malevolent, evil, wicked being who tempts and brings evil to all the other people of the earth.

After Job lost everything we read:

In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 1:22

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (sawtawn) came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:1-3

So, even after his calamity, Job was still faithful to God. Now, God tells Satan: “See, in spite of everything that happens, Job still fears Me and eschews evil.”

And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yes, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he

took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

Job 2:4-8

Job was so ill at this point that his wife said:

Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

Job 2:9

Job's wife gave up. Job had lost everything that he had. He now was in illness and pain and possibly in fear of his own life. At this point almost all fundamentalists without exception have credited some wicked, angelic being called "Satan" ("sawtawn" in the original Chaldean language) with having done all this to Job. But, perhaps you missed verse three of chapter two where God is speaking and He said of Job: "and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause." Who did the destroying? God said that HE did it.

After these additional calamities occurred and, apparently, after days of conversation with friends who came supposedly to comfort him but who were of no great comfort, Job tells his friends:

How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words? These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me. And be it indeed that I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself. If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me, and plead against me my reproach:

Job 19:2-5

If you know the Book of Job, you know that these men had been telling Job that he must have sinned. They told Job that

something he did was wrong, and that's why he had suffered all these calamities. So Job rebuked them:

Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net. Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment. He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths. He hath stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown from my head. He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree. He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies. His troops come together, and raise up their way against me, and encamp round about my tabernacle. He hath put my brethren far from me, and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me.

Job 19:6-13

Who is Job saying caused all of these calamities? Job says that God did it. He is trying to point out to these men that it wasn't necessarily any sin of his own but, they should understand that God did it. Job says:

Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

Job 19:21

In the last chapter of Job, after God has spoken to him, Job answers:

I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not: things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech

thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Job 42:2-6

Even though Job had rebuked his friends and told them he had not sinned, he said: God, I realize what I am, I realize what You are, You can do all things, therefore, I repent. Then God speaks to the other men:

And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.

Job 42:7-8

God says that Job spoke right. He then tells Job's friends to offer a burnt offering because, as He says in verse eight: "ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job." These men did make an offering because God had told them to, as we see in the next passage:

So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job. And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord

gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters.

Job 42:9-13

Why did God give Job all of these blessings? They were given in order to replace that which God Almighty had taken from Job. The Book of Job is very specific. The people who in the end came to comfort Job realized that everything that had happened to Job had been done by God Almighty.

I haven't quoted all of Job but I quoted every place where the word "Satan" appears in Job. I defy you to use any part of those references to conclude that "satan" is some sort of an everliving creature who has power almost equal to God. If we take the original meaning of the word we come up with the word "adversary." This adversary could easily have been nothing more than another son of God, a man of the Adamic race, who came before God with the rest of the men and provoked God to test Job. It was God who brought the calamities. There is no indication that the Satan of Job had any supernatural powers, whatsoever. It was God who did the things which were beyond nature.

We are going to have to believe what Isaiah wrote:

I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

Isaiah 45:5-7

“Sawtawn” Is Not The Satan of Today’s Churches

Let's look at the other five times in the Old Testament that “sawtawn” is transliterated into “Satan.”

And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it.

1 Chronicles 21:1-2

David did number the children of Israel. This was God's reaction:

And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

1 Chronicles 21:7-8

Who did David blame for having done this thing? Did he give “Satan” his due? No, David said: “I have sinned.”

The word “Satan” is only used in verse one of this passage. If it had been translated to the meaning of the word it would have said: “an ADVERSARY stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel” There is nothing in the context here that can make this “satan” into a fallen angel.

The word “Satan” is also found in Psalm 109:

Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand (referring to his enemy).

Psalm 109:6

David was saying, “Let an enemy of my enemy stand at his right hand.” That is all. David would not have prayed for the “Satan” of the churches to be his enemy's advisor! It hardly makes sense that David would want a wise and powerful archangel to be the advisor to his own enemy. No, David was really praying that his enemy would have an adversary or an enemy of his own to advise him. This would bring calamity upon the enemy's designs. David desired his enemies to have satans of their own in their camp.

The last three places in the Old Testament where the word “Satan” is found are in Zechariah:

And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, a Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

Zechariah 3:1-2

There is no indication that the Satan here is anything like the one taught by the churches. He doesn't do anything except stand there as if he is to resist and, then,

he is rebuked and we hear no more about him.

The margin says that the last part of verse one could read “an adversary” for the word “Satan.” The last three words “to resist him” should have read “to be his adversary” (satan). The word “resist” is translated from the same Chaldean word: “sawtawn.” It means “to resist or be an adversary.”

So here in Zechariah, as in Job and I Chronicles 21, there is absolutely no evidence that this “sawtawn” or “Satan” is anything resembling the Satan preached by the churches. He is mentioned as if he is just standing there, it does not say he does anything. He is rebuked, and we hear no more about him.

We've read every passage in the Old Testament where the Chaldean word “sawtawn” is used. It is either translated “adversary” or is transliterated into the word, “Satan.” Not once can it really be used to teach some sort of a wicked, powerful, omnipotent angel or some great enemy of God who, literally, can overpower mankind and (almost) God, Himself. In each and every case, the word names or describes someone who is opposed to someone else. In most cases the “sawtawn” or “Satan” is obviously a mortal man. In fact, he is sometimes named. In no case is there any indication of long-life or supernatural powers. It kind of takes the wind out of Satan's sails, wouldn't you think? Or, perhaps, we're just taking the wind out of the mouths of the false prophets.



Look Who Is “A Satan”

Before we go on, let's look at 2 Samuel, chapter 24 which is a repetition of the same story we read earlier about David numbering Israel:

And again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he (Satan) moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 24:1

The balance of the chapter is identical to 1 Chronicles 21, where it says Satan provoked David to number Israel. The “Satan” of 1 Chronicles 21:1 is none other than God Himself being “an adversary.” That is the way the word is used.

So far, the only place we could give the devil any due at all is in Job, where we read:

So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

Job 2:7

So, if we want to give the Satan of Job anything, according to the strict interpretation of what we just read, we could only admit one thing: that he might have given Job boils. Some people could probably testify that quite a few of us could get boils by taking some sort of toxins into our body. Doctors give people boils all the time by giving them injections that are bad for their body. Boils are nothing more than the body's attempt to eject something through the skin that is a poison to the body. This great Satan couldn't have done very much, he couldn't have much power, if all he could do was give Job boils.

In Psalm 109:6 we saw that “satan” obviously-means “adversary.” We just

read three times in Zechariah where “sawtawn” or “Satan” was going to resist either the angel of the Lord or Joshua. The Lord rebuked him and then there is no further comment about him. So “Satan” has done nothing that would make him a great, powerful archangel, who does terrible wicked things to all the people of the earth. It is possible that the only act he ever completed was to give Job boils.

In 11 cases, “sawtawn” is translated “adversary.” From the context in each case “sawtawn” simply means “an adversary” or “an opponent.” In two cases, the “sawtawn” is named as mortal men, in one case, he is an angel of God, and once, he is God himself. So “sawtawn,” as it is used in the Old Testament, does not and cannot be used to teach that there exists a great and powerful archangel; who goes about tearing souls out of the hand of God, taking them down to his abode in the “nether world” and punishing them for ever and ever. The word “sawtawn,” from which we get “Satan,” is simply not used that way.

Yet we find, if we think for a moment, that this horrible creature who is the subject of so much fearsome preaching from the churches, is identical to another creature called “the devil”, “Lucifer” and “Satan” who is depicted in the movies, in stories and on television. It should make you think, for a moment, why the Satan of the churches is identical to the Satan depicted by movie makers, who do not believe in Christ. These antiChristian movie makers have come out in recent times with stories about how a supernatural being, called the devil or Satan, cohabits with a woman and produces a half-devil child.

Summary Of The Word “Sawtawn”

Let me sum up the use of the word “sawtawn” in the original text. It is very important that you understand what we are discovering in this study. We must see what the Bible does or does not teach; since we are living in a time when the churches, and many secular people, are building up a great “anti-Christ,” who is supposed to be a certain being, who will rule the world. At the same time, these churches preach that this anti-Christ also rules an underworld, where billions of dead reside.

We have found that 19 times in the Old Testament, “sawtawn” is transliterated “Satan.” All 19 are contained within only four passages. In I Chronicles 21:1 we see, from reading the other account, that the “sawtawn” here is obviously God, Himself. The second passage is in Job, where the word “Satan” is used 14 times. In Job, Satan is an adversary — there is no argument about that. The only certain thing he did directly was to give Job boils. In Psalm 109:6, the word “Satan” plainly means “enemy” or “adversary” - it is definitely not the devil of the churches. In Zechariah 4, whoever or whatever he is, he just stood there, he was rebuked, and that appears to be the end of him. There is no act accredited to him at all.

“Sawtawn” is translated “adversary” seven times in the Old Testament. Sawtawn comes from the primary root word “sawtan;” which also has been translated in the Old Testament, as “adversary” five times. The first time we find “sawtawn” translated “adversary” is in Numbers 22, where the “sawtawn” was the angel of the Lord. In I Samuel 29:4, the “sawtawn” was David, himself, as an adversary to the Philistines. In 2 Samuel

19:22, the “sawtawns” are David's own men. In 1 Kings 5:4, Solomon said he had peace and there was no “sawtawn.” Solomon meant that there was no enemy, or enemy nation, against him. In 1 Kings 11, after Solomon had turned and sinned against God, the word “sawtawn” (translated adversary) is used three times. God raised up “sawtawns” against Solomon. These “sawtawns” are named, they are mortal men, kings or generals of other nations. In Psalm 109, the word “adversaries” is used three times. Each time the word comes from the Chaldean, “sawtan” which has the same meaning as “sawtawn.” “Satan” is found only once in that same passage as a transliteration of “sawtawn” and it means “enemy.” David calls his wicked enemies, “my sawtawns” or “enemies” (plural). In that case it cannot possibly mean one great, wicked archangel. So, the amazing truth is that the Chaldean word “sawtawn” (and its root word “sawtan”) is used 31 times in only 11 passages in the Old Testament.

Out of 11 passages and 31 usages of the words “sawtawn” and “sawtan”, there is only one passage where there is even an inkling that this “sawtawn” has any supernatural power. That supernatural power could have been, simply, giving a man boils. Think of what the churches tell us Satan is, compared to what the Bible does NOT say about Satan. In 10 out of 11 times, the “sawtawn” is an angel. Six times it is men. One time it is something, or someone, who gave Job boils. It is possible that Job had a doctor who was an adversary of his and who gave him boils, I don't know. That is speculation on my part. But, that is no more speculation than the teaching we hear about this great, wicked, supernatural, omniscient, omnipresent angel; who is all over the earth, all at the same time, stealing billions of souls and taking them down to his kingdom in the earth.
